the PHANTOM®

the complete newspaper dailies: Volume Six 1944-1946

lee falk, wilson mccoy, and ray moore

Hp

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introduction by Ivan Pedersen

Hermes Press

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In Memory of Jim Shepherd

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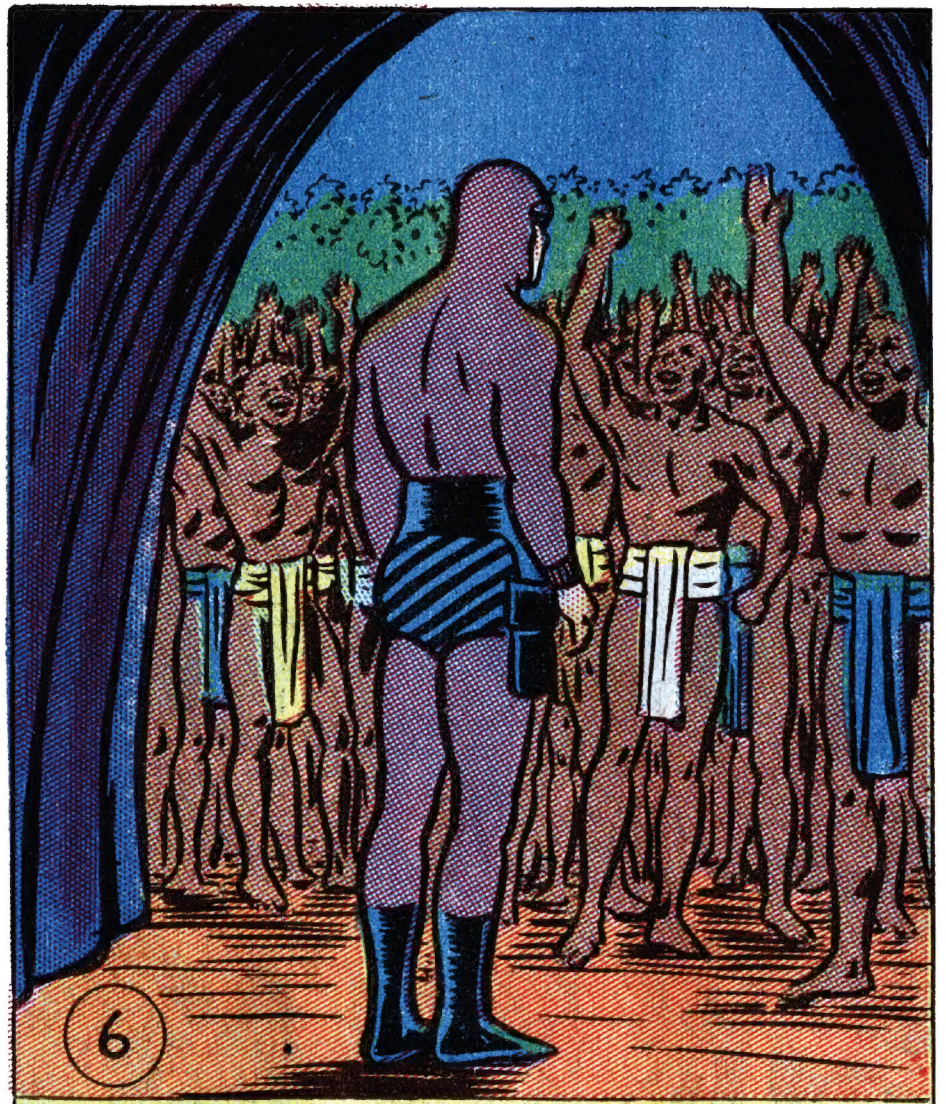
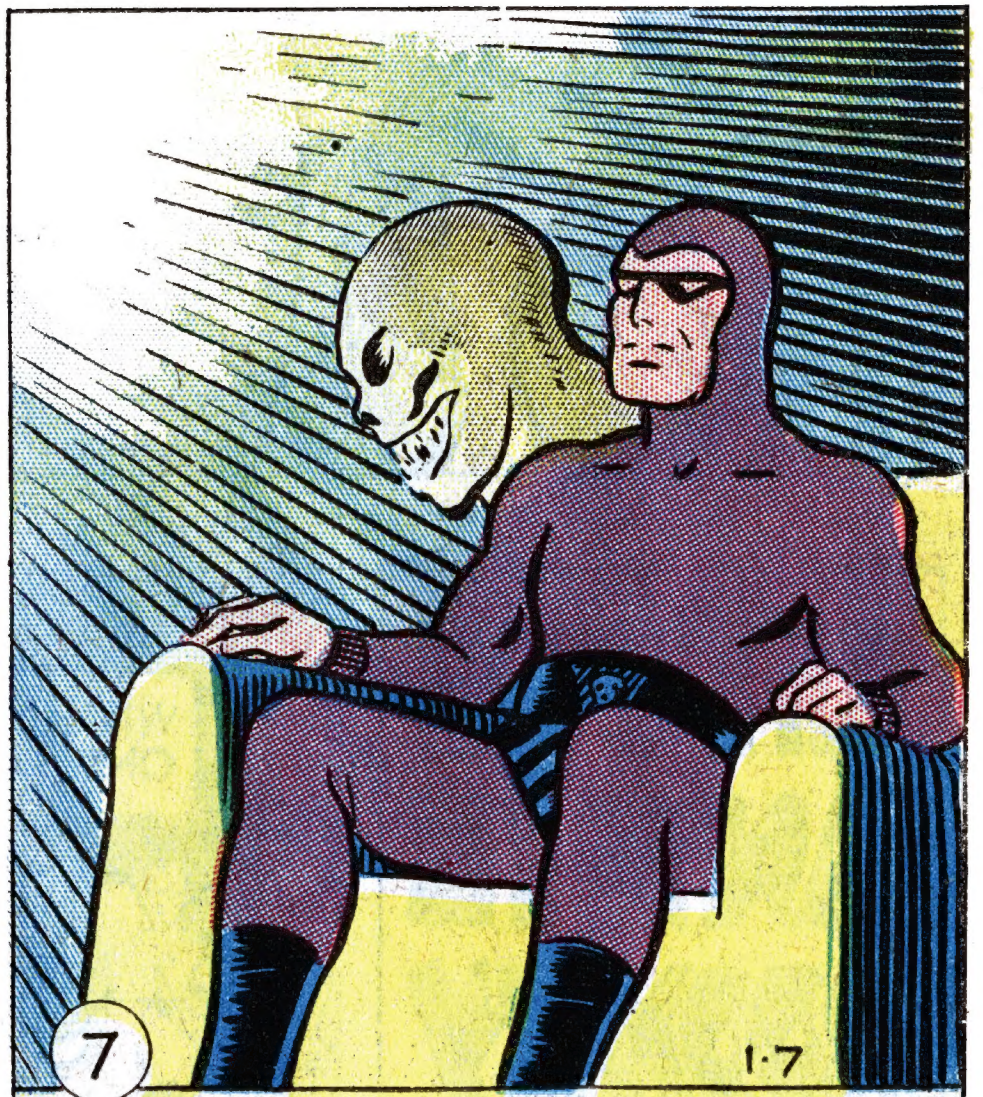


HE COMES OUT OF THE CAVE INTO A NEW LIFE, A LONELY LIFE. A LIFE OF DANGER AND OF POWER. A FIGURE TO BE WHISPERED ABOUT, GLIMPSED ONLY IN THE SHADOWS ~ ~



OUR PHANTOM ~ THE GHOST WHO WALKS! THUS ENDS THE TALE OF THE CHILDHOOD OF THE PHANTOM.

BEGINNING NEXT WEEK ~ "THE GOLDEN PRINCESS".

introduction

The Phantom After the War

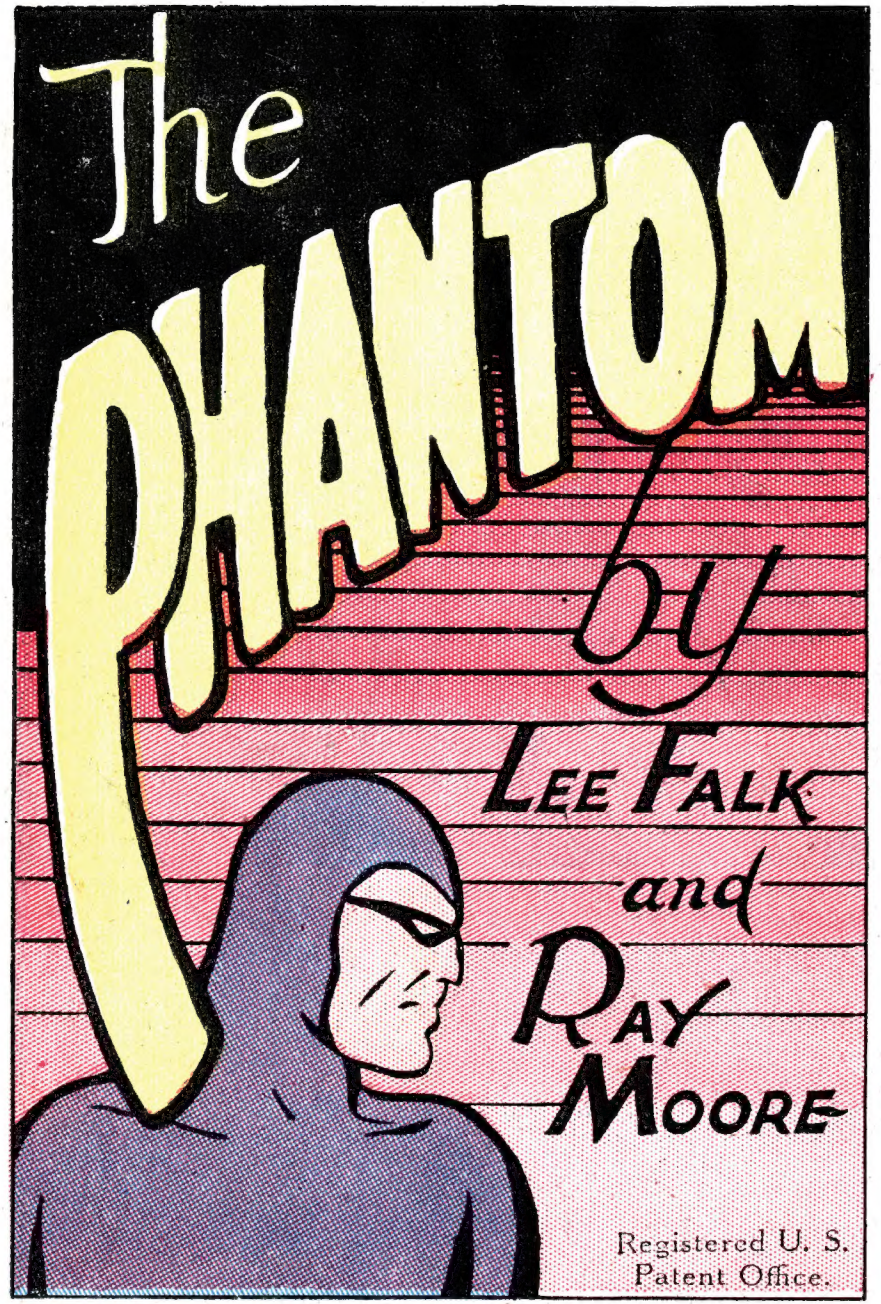
With the sixth volume of *The Phantom* dailies collection from Hermes Press, we have now reached the end of World War II. The Ghost Who Walks returns back to "regular" crime fighting, instead of war inspired stories. The Phantom now goes back to basics with stories of intrigue and suspense, devoid of the serious, real life conflicts posed by the war.

This book offers five continuities which present a wide range of characters and story lines. The first, "The Maharajah's Daughter," finds The Phantom fighting kidnappers. In the more humorous story "The Blue Gang," the second offering in this volume, two millionaires are betting about The Phantom, is he a myth or for real? No harm in that, but when one of them is kidnapped, well… you guessed it. In "Lago the Lake God," the third continuity, Diana is kidnapped by a mysterious God that rules the lake in The Phantom's jungle, and he has to be stopped! The next story, "The Wild Girl," finds The Phantom in the jungle solving a mystery. The final story in this volume poses yet another puzzle when The Phantom confronts "The Mermaids of Melo Straits." In short, you are in for a hearty helping of excitement, intrigue, mystery, and drama with these well constructed and entertaining stories.

Two panels from *The Phantom* Sunday from January 7, 1945.

While Ray Moore was involved with the last continuity in this volume, McCoy's art dominated *The Phantom* after his tenure started in 1944, a duty he carried on until his untimely death in 1961. Despite his simplified line and approach to the art, he became "the" artist for a generation of *Phantom* lovers all over the world. I know fans a bit older than I who stopped reading *The Phantom* strip when McCoy was gone. His art may look simple, but he was indeed a very skilled artist. We have seen photos of him working on the strip, using live models to act "scenes." McCoy's focus on getting the look of the strip "just right" is clear to anyone familiar with his work.

Today, I greatly admire McCoy's work on *The Phantom*, but that could have easily been a different story. As I grew up in Norway, in the 1960s, *The Phantom* artist during my childhood was Sy Barry, but that was mostly in the newspapers. In 1964, when the Norwegian magazine *Fantomet* launched its reprints, we mostly saw stories drawn by McCoy—for a few years he was the only



artist in the magazine. Later, when Barry entered the pages of the magazine as well as in newsprint, I was stunned by the differences.

For some, McCoy's art was not held in high esteem. This could be a result of the heavy editing done in reprinting the strip.

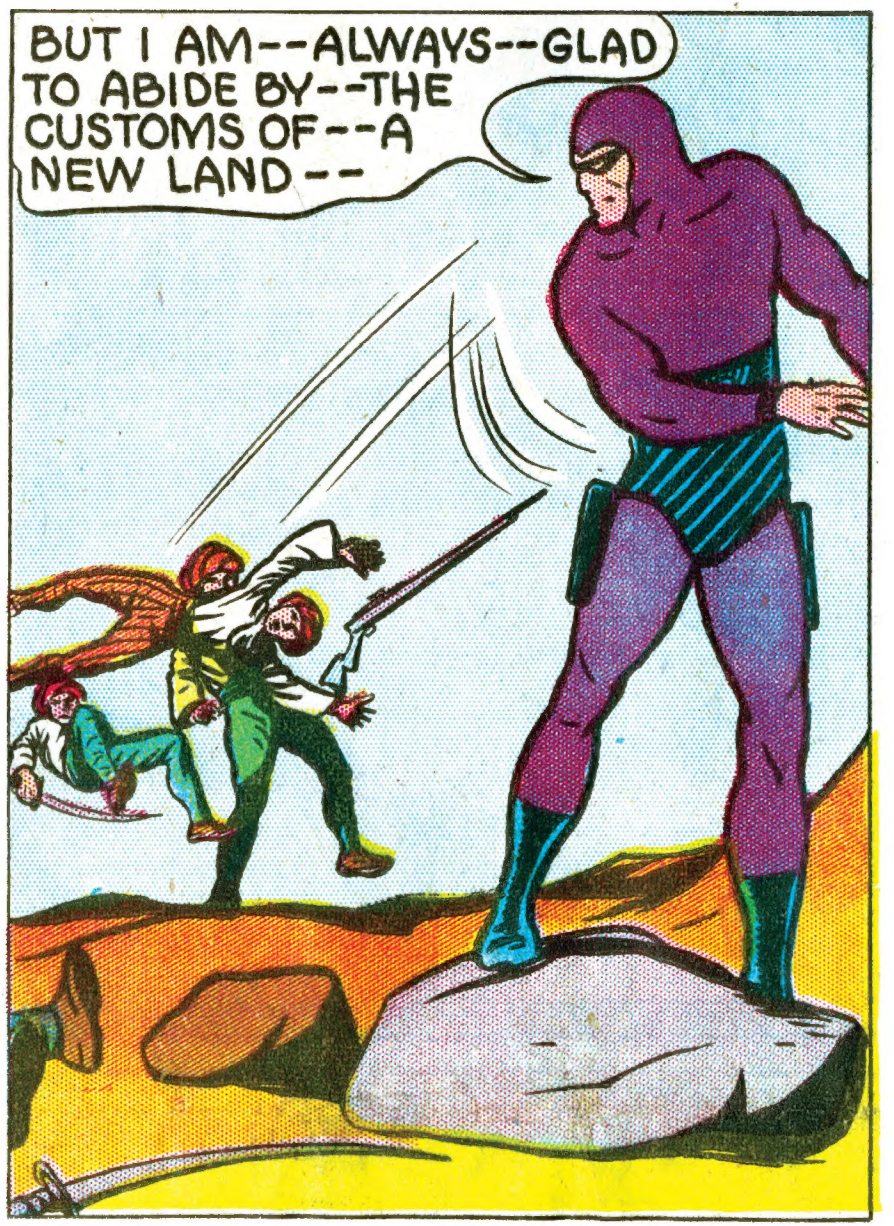
In the 1940s and 1950s he did laudable work bringing the strip to the papers, every day and Sunday—in Scandinavia McCoy was always held in high regard. His popularity can best be demonstrated by a story involving a trip he did with the popular "Norwegian Costal Liner" several years after World War II. By then *The Phantom* strip had spread from being only published in one paper in Oslo, to the rest of Norway. As soon as it was known among journalists in the cities along his route, they took the opportunity to interview McCoy which generated great interest and popularity in the strip. During these interviews one question was asked more frequently than any other. But, first, before revealing this question, let me digress...

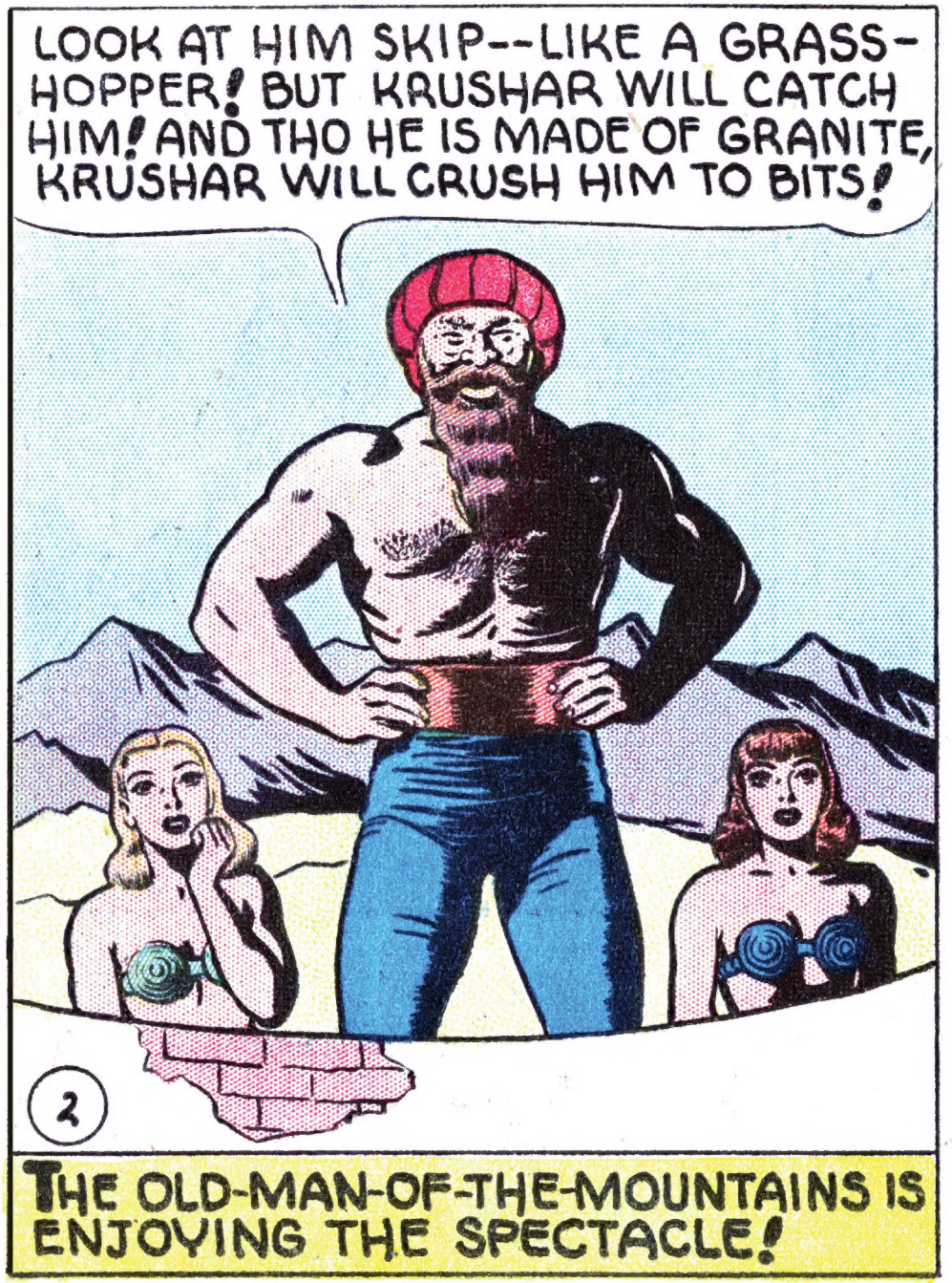
As you may recall from the last volume, Lee Falk felt it was time to make a "real" couple of The Phantom and his long time girlfriend, Diana, and a proposal was made from The Phantom. That did not end well. In this volume of the complete *Phantom* reprint, Diana, is back, and the romance is stronger than ever, but they are still "only" sweethearts. So, you guessed it, the most asked question was "When do you intend to marry The Phantom?," but McCoy would just smile and answer, very secretively, that he had plans for The Phantom and Diana, but not for some time!

McCoy loved his work and it shows. He was educated as an artist, studying at the Chicago Art Institute, the American Academy, and the School of Fine Arts at Washington University.

***Phantom* title card from a Sunday credited to Ray Moore even though the strip uses McCoy artwork. Opposite: panels from the Sunday from December 13, 1942.**

IN MY COUNTRY--WE GREET A WEARY STRANGER--WITH FOOD --AND LODGING---


BUT I AM--ALWAYS--GLAD TO ABIDE BY--THE CUSTOMS OF--A NEW LAND--


LOOK AT HIM SKIP--LIKE A GRASS-HOPPER! BUT KRUSHAR WILL CATCH HIM! AND THO HE IS MADE OF GRANITE, KRUSHAR WILL CRUSH HIM TO BITS!
2
THE OLD-MAN-OF-THE-MOUNTAINS IS ENJOYING THE SPECTACLE!

ONE FOR YOUR SMELLER, FELLER!
3
BUT THE PHANTOM HAS NO INTENTION OF BEING CAUGHT IN THOSE MIGHTY ARMS! HE DRIVES HIS IRON FIST AGAINST KRUSHAR'S TENDER SNOUT!

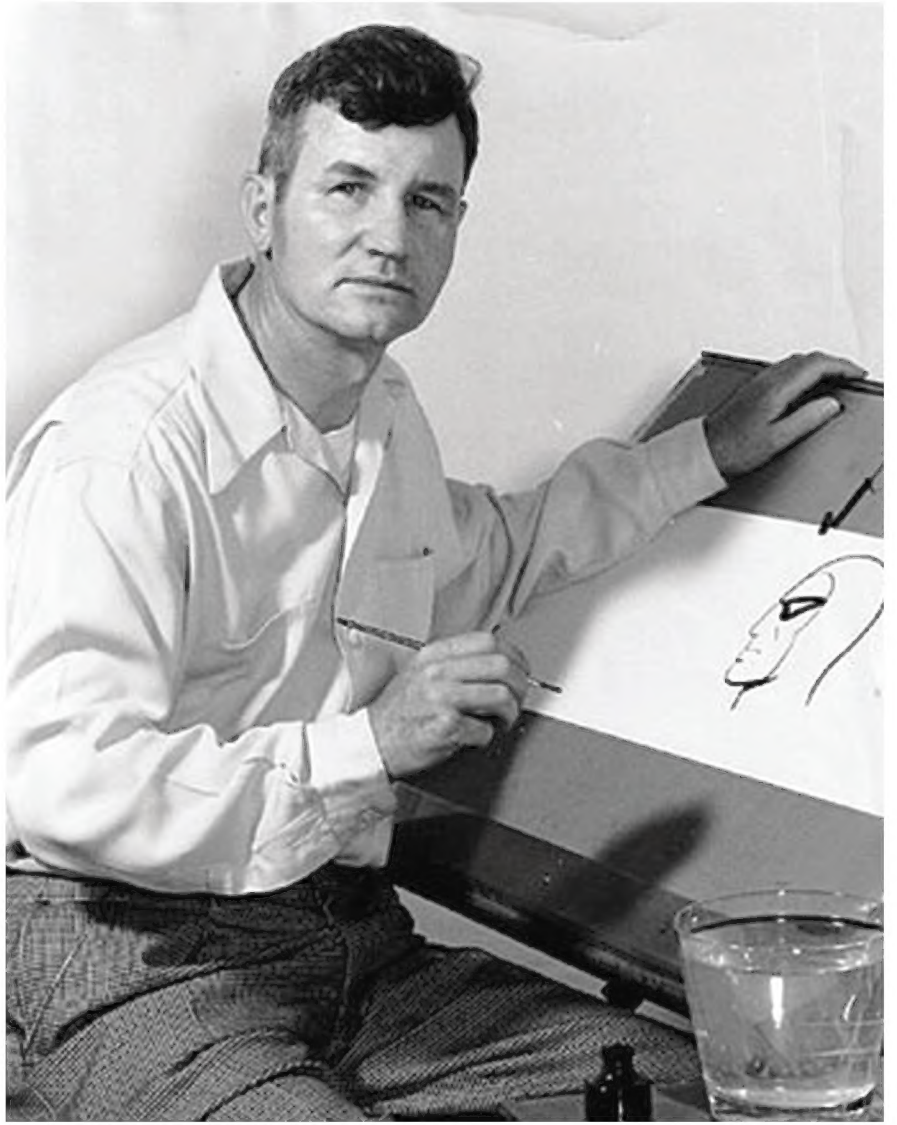
During McCoy's tenure with the strip a lot of things changed. The first such "change" is chronicled in the first story of this volume—The Phantom gets his horse, Hero. During McCoy's tenure the cast of characters was expanded, more essential elements were added to the myth of The Phantom, and important plot points were more fully explained.

The Phantom's home land is in Africa, but that was not always the case. Look closely at the story "The Maharajah's Daughter" and you will find that it does not take place in Africa. The original location for The Phantom's jungle was indeed the Far East. During the 1940s there were still indications it was in the Far East. However, during the 1950s McCoy slowly moved Bengal to Africa. The jungle looks more like the African jungle than the jungles of the Far East. The same goes for the animals. Later this will be confirmed in a strip drawn by Sy Barry.

The Jungle Patrol is a popular element of *The Phantom* strip. In the 1960s, Lee Falk wrote about this, but it was during McCoy's tenure that we first became aware of the Patrol. In the story "The Professor" (1951) we first see an officer from the Patrol, and in the following story "The Jungle Patrol" we got it all. The poisoned well next to the Jungle Patrol HQ, Colonel Week's introduction in the daily, and the recruiting process is described.

The marks of The Phantom are both a "good" and a "bad" one. In the early days he only used the skull-mark for both. This mark simply identified The Phantom, and was used as a warning to all that The Phantom could be nearby. In the story "Carlyle's Good Mark" (1958), we learn about the good mark. This was the first time we

Opposite: two panels from *The Phantom* Sunday from March 7, 1943. Right: Wilson McCoy at his drafting board.



night thrust
The PHANTOM
By LEE FALK and WILSON McCOY
LEAVING THE PALACE WITH THE YOUNG QUEEN~~
HOLD ON TIGHT! WE'RE GOING DOWN~~
IF I WEREN'T SO AFRAID~THIS'D BE FUN! I NEVER DID ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!
SUDDENLY~HE SEES A GLINT OF STEEL IN THE MOONLIGHT~~
WHAT~~?
THERE'S ONE OF THEM!
WE'RE GOING UP~NOT DOWN! THE PALACE GROUNDS ARE THICK WITH THEM!
THE~~(GULP) ASSASSINS~!
ALERTED BY THE SHOT, PALACE GUARDS CHARGE ONTO THE LAWN~THE ASSASSINS FLEE~~
ALL THAT SHOOTING DOWN THERE~~
YOUR GUARDS~AND THE CRESCENT CULT ASSASSINS~BUT MOST OF THEM ESCAPED~~
WILSON McCOY 5-22
COPR. 1955, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
OH~I'VE NEVER HAD SO MUCH EXCITEMENT!
IT'S JUST BEGINNING! HERE, HERO~~HERE, DEVIL!
~AND HERO CLEARS THE PALACE HEDGE WITH A MIGHTY LEAP!
OH~WHERE ARE THEY~~?
WATCHING! THEY'LL BE AFTER US!
CONT'D.

saw this in a story. The story of The Phantom's mysterious island, Eden, was also first presented during McCoy's tenure. In 1960 we got the story "The Honeymooners," where a young couple ended their trip on Eden after their plane had crashed.

The Monkey Mail is another well-known element in The Phantom's world—a chain of monkeys who bring important letters to the deep woods. We first learned about this "mail service" in the story "The Monkey Mail" (1960).

The Chronicle Room was shown, for the first time, in the Sunday continuity "The Female Phantom" (1952). The Chronicles were not used very much during McCoy's years, but later used much more frequently.

The Jungle Olympics was, for the first time, described by McCoy in the story "The Gurk Twins" (1960). This version of the Olympic Games reflect the often dangerous aspects of jungle life. The prize is a jewel filled trophy, worth millions.

If you continue to read the stories drawn by McCoy, I am sure you will find even more to add to the list of "firsts" in the many stories he did.

To read these stories in a their original form, complete and chronologically, could not be taken for granted through the years. The stories in this volume have seldom been reprinted, and most certainly not in complete form. Frew (Australia) and Swedish publishers have been the most reliable sources for these stories, and only Frew printed English versions; both edited the stories to fit inside their magazines in earlier years. Only recently have we seen unedited versions for some of the stories, so it is safe to say that a collected volume is most welcome.

To read these dailies as they once were published, one strip at a time is not only exciting, but interesting as well, as we can witness the development of the strip. We are able to observe the evolution of the legend of The Ghost Who Walks, as well as the art and the script from day one into later years. We learn, by looking at the year and date on the strips, how real life events were reflected in the strip.

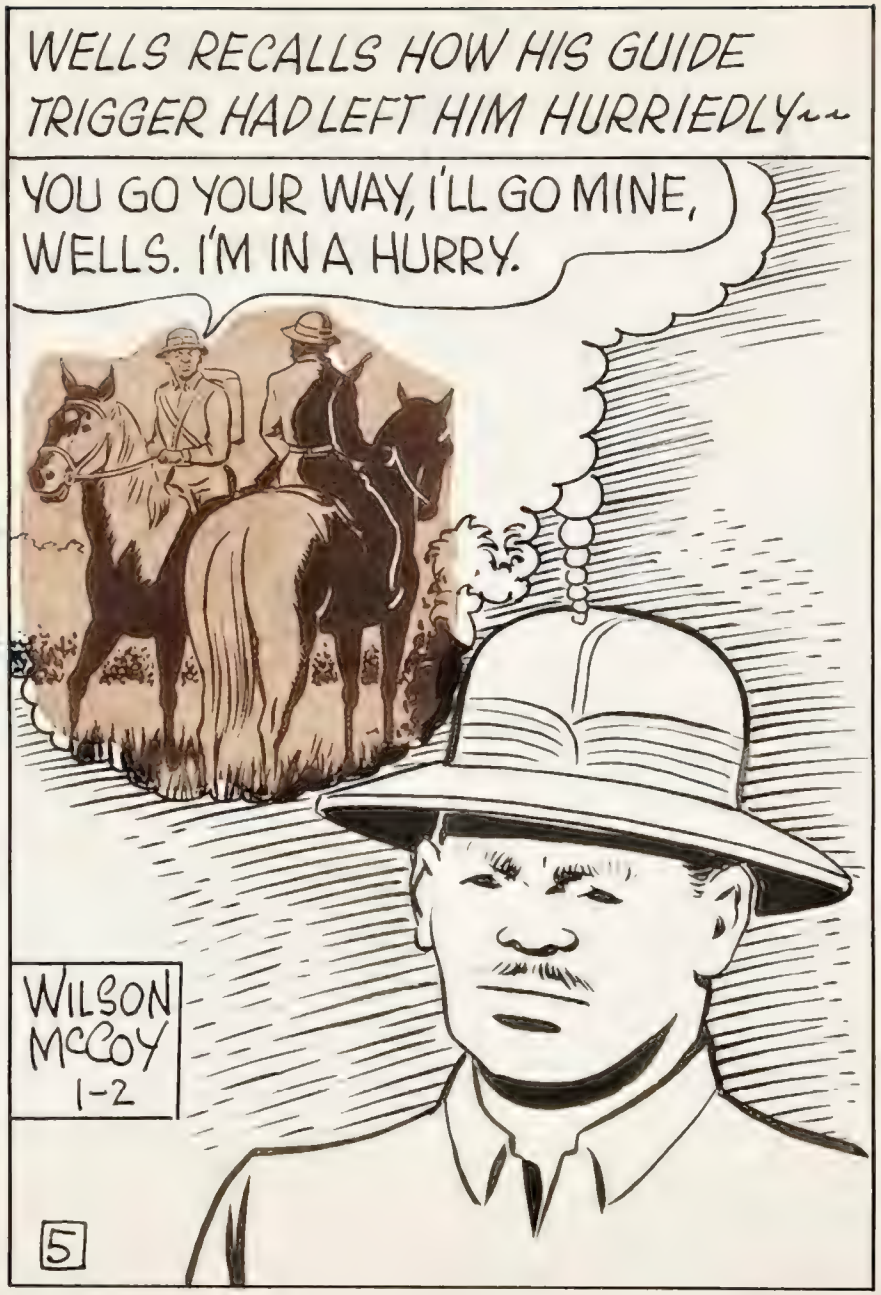
Continue reading the dailies and Sundays (which are in a separate continuity), for the first time since these strips ran in the newspaper you can witness the development of one of the truly greatest comics strips. You have some exiting reading ahead of you!

— Ivan Pedersen

Ivan Pedersen, who hails from north Norway, was first introduced to *The Phantom* through his local newspaper in the early 1960s and later in the Norwegian magazine *Fantomet*. He has actively been involved in restoring *Phantom* comic strips and has one of the most comprehensive collections in the world. He has created a comprehensive index for *The Phantom* (Norway, US-papers, and Australia) which can be found at www.ipcomics.net.

Opposite: original artwork for *The Phantom* Sunday from May 22, 1955, pencils and inks by Wilson McCoy.

IT WAS THERE! IT DISAPPEARED THIS MORNING WHEN YOU LEFT! WE SAVED YOUR LIFE! IS THIS YOUR GRATITUDE?
THE CUP~GONE? STOLEN?
4
COPR. 1954, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


WELLS RECALLS HOW HIS GUIDE TRIGGER HAD LEFT HIM HURRIEDLY~~
YOU GO YOUR WAY, I'LL GO MINE, WELLS. I'M IN A HURRY.
WILSON McCOY 1-2
5

focus

The Conundrums of The Phantom

It's safe to say in that 1936 when Lee Falk created *The Phantom* he never thought it would still be running as a newspaper strip seventy-six years later. The world was a very different place back then—no one gave serious consideration to preserving comic strips for posterity. In 1936 the county was still experiencing what's now referred to as the Great Depression. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the President, many citizens got their employment from the government, through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Second World War was looming on the horizon.

Hermes Press began printing *The Phantom* in 2010. From the beginning of this project we've searched high and low to find source material to assemble this comprehensive reprint of The Ghost Who Walks. Through the help of collectors Pete Klaus and the late Ed Rhoades, we were put in touch with "The Friends of the Phantom," an international group of dedicated "Phans" who collect and celebrate this great character, many of whom have been instrumental in helping supply us with material for these volumes. Ivan Pedersen, a collector from Norway, who wrote the introduction you just read, has also been an important consultant on this project. The problem is that there doesn't exist one complete source of material anywhere in the world.

The owners of the strip, King Features, have an archive of material but it's not suitable for reproduction. The books of press proofs that they possessed are now nothing but a memory. They have much of the material micro-filmed but, again, due to over-use and the ravages of time, it's not useful for the purposes of reproducing a book.

Back in the late 1990s King Features gave two sets of their proofs to two institutions: Michigan State University (MSU) and Ohio State University. Ohio State, to our knowledge, has never catalogued these materials and restricts access to them. Michigan State's Special Collections, through the auspices of Randy Scott has catalogued its holdings and, has made them available to Hermes Press for use in this series of reprints. It's safe to say that without Scott's help and dedication and the stalwart assistance we've received from everyone at MSU, this series of books just wouldn't be possible. The problem is that there are "gaps" in the proofs that MSU has.

Two panels from *The Phantom* daily strip from January 2, 1954.

For instance MSU does not have any of the first or second continuities of the strip, "The Singh Brotherhood" and "The Sky Band." MSU's holdings don't kick in until part way through "The Diamond Hunters." From there on it's smooth sailing, kind of. There are bits and pieces missing until "The Phantom Goes to War" ("The Inexorables"), then the material jumps a bit, and then, there is a huge gap spanning from late 1944 though 1946 that just isn't there.

To complicate matters even further, around 1944 King Features began offering *The Phantom* daily strip to newspapers in two different configurations, one more vertical than the other. Due to wartime paper shortages newspapers wanted to save on space and cram more newspaper strips onto their "funnies" pages. The reduction in size allowed for this. For whatever reason King Features only archived the truncated version of the daily strip which cuts off about a little over an inch from the bottom portion of the art.

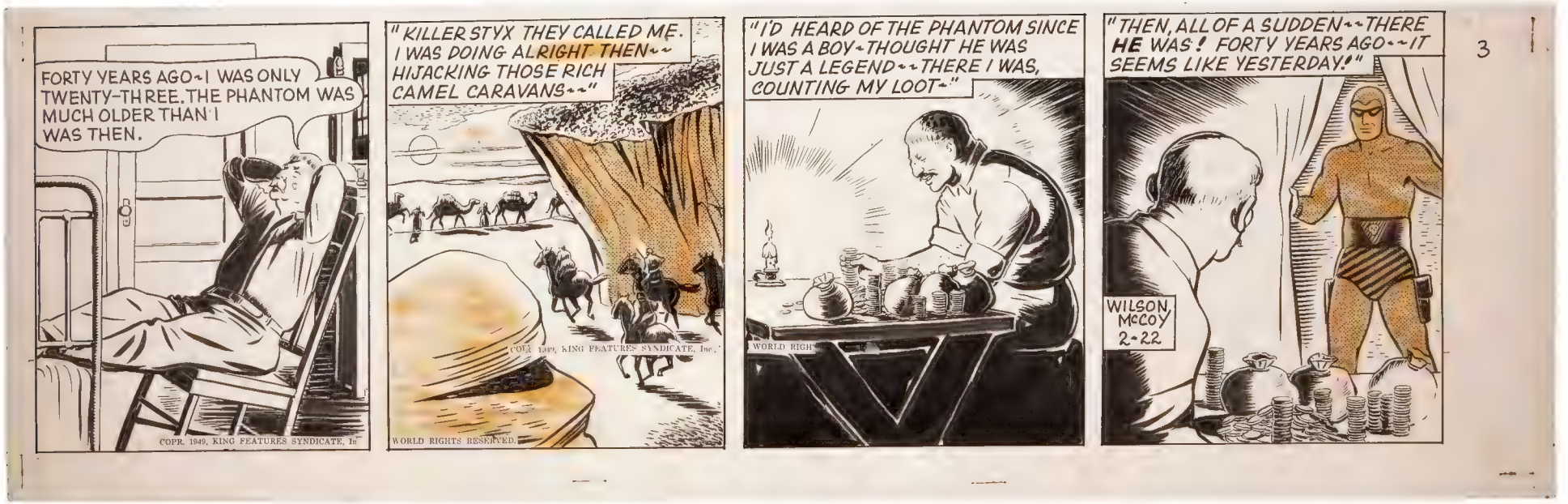
Now for the conundrum, which version should Hermes Press use in this series of reprints: the material that is accessible or the material that may exist but which we can't find? The question just posed answers itself. However, the "gap" from 1944 through 1946 presents a different issue. We have been able to collect all the strips from that period, but, we haven't been able to locate one source of full size strips or the truncated versions. So, dear readers, this volume uses the material that we were able find, some full size strips and some truncated.

Finally, a note on what proofs look like, as opposed what strips look like printed in the newspaper. The syndicate proofs, just as the strips printed in this book, are printed on coated stock paper with highly saturated blacks. The strips printed in newspapers re-photographed the proofs and printed them in gray-tone on pulpy newsprint paper. In creating the proofs, the original art for *The Phantom* was photographed using an overhead camera with an extremely bright light source, resulting in the strips appearing pure black and white. In this book and in our other reprints of various strips, Hermes Press is completely faithful to what the **proofs** of these great newspaper features looked like.

So, in reading these classic *Phantom* tales, you now have a little insight into the trials and tribulations that confront us in creating this series and which we routinely deal with, especially with the sixth volume of the strip. So, read and enjoy!

— *Daniel Herman*, Publisher

Opposite page top: original art from *The Phantom* daily strip from February 22, 1949. Note that in the bottom of the first panel the indicia is located above the "line" of the frame and running into the second panel. In the second panel, a little over an inch up is a second line of indica which runs into the next panel. This is where the "cut" was made to make the strip smaller. Below and on pages 16 and 17 are the truncated versions of the strip not used in this book. The full size versions can be found on pages 214 and 215.


FORTY YEARS AGO-I WAS ONLY TWENTY-THREE. THE PHANTOM WAS MUCH OLDER THAN I WAS THEN.
COPR. 1949, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
"KILLER STYX THEY CALLED ME. I WAS DOING ALRIGHT THEN-- HIJACKING THOSE RICH CAMEL CARAVANS--"
COPR. 1949, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
"I'D HEARD OF THE PHANTOM SINCE I WAS A BOY-THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A LEGEND--THERE I WAS, COUNTING MY LOOT-"
WORLD RIGHTS
"THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN--THERE HE WAS! FORTY YEARS AGO--IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY!"
WILSON McCOY 2-22
3

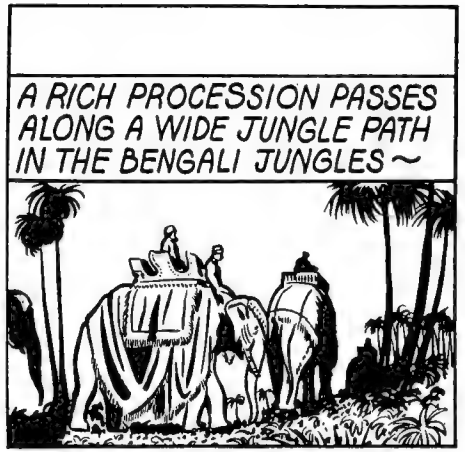
WHAT CAPT. CRAG SEES--
LOWER A BOAT-- LIVELY, MR. THOMAS, TAKE TWO MEN. PICK UP THE POOR DEVIL.
AYE, SIR.
WHAT'S THIS?
11-14

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE MATE STRUCK THAT POOR MAN?
YES, MR. THOMAS, EXPLANATION PLEASE!
HE SEEMED DELIRIOUS, SIR. I WAS AFRAID HE'D GET VIOLENT- UPSET THE BOAT.
CRAZY, EH? WHAT MADE YOU THINK SO?
HE TOLD ME HIS SHIP WAS WRECKED IN MELO STRAITS.
11-15
QUITE POSSIBLE- NOT INSANE.
YES, SIR- BUT HE SAID THEY'D BEEN LURED THERE-- BY MERMAIDS!
TOO MUCH EXPOSURE.
MERMAIDS- I WONDER--
POOR FELLOW-. HAVE TO TIE HIM DOWN--MIGHT GET VIOLENT.
WHERE AM I?
TAKE IT EASY. YOU'LL BE O.K. TELL ME ABOUT THE MERMAIDS.
"WE HEARD BEAUTIFUL MUSIC COMING ACROSS THE WATER- WE DREW NEARER- THEN WE SAW 'EM- REAL, LIVE MERMAIDS!
11-16

YOU REALLY THINK YOU SAW MERMAIDS?
THINK IT? I KNOW IT!
"THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL -- THE CAPTAIN AND THE WHOLE CREW COULDN'T WAIT TO GET CLOSER - TO GET A BETTER LOOK --"
"SUDDENLY -- BEFORE WE KNEW IT - THE SHIP CRACKED UP ON THE ROCKS --"
"I CRAWLED ONTO THE RAFT - - NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS ALONE - IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN."
11-17
IT'S HORRIBLE. MAYBE ALL MY MATES ARE LOST. AND ALL THE DIAMONDS, TOO!
DIAMONDS?
YES - WE HAD A CARGO OF DIAMONDS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. MUST'VE BEEN WORTH A FORTUNE!
11-19
"TATTOO" TED SAYS HIS SHIP WAS WRECKED -- CARRYING DIAMONDS.
BOSH! WE GOT NO SOS, DID WE? HE'S BALMY?
MUSIC ON THE WATER -- MERMAIDS - DIAMONDS! IT'S WEIRD
THE SEA WILL DO STRANGE THINGS TO A MAN'S MIND.

Chapter One: The Maharajah's Daughter

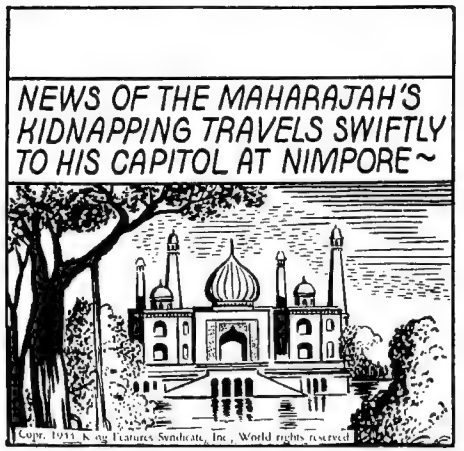
the PHANTOM®


A RICH PROCESSION PASSES ALONG A WIDE JUNGLE PATH IN THE BENGALI JUNGLES ~

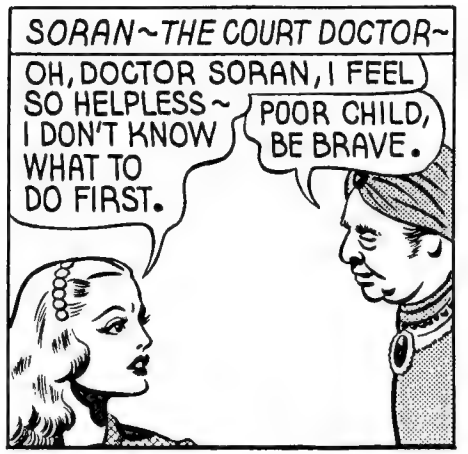
IT IS THE OLD, FABULOUSLY WEALTHY MAHARAJAH OF NIMPORE, RETURNING FROM A VISIT TO A NEIGHBORING PRINCE ~
8-28

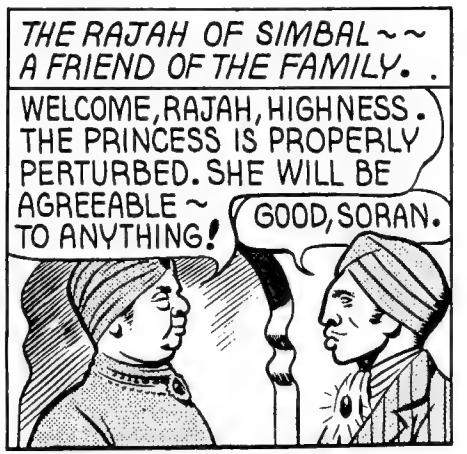
SUDDENLY, THE UNEXPECTED! THE MAHARAJAH'S PARTY IS ATTACKED!

A RIFLE SHOT BRINGS THE ROYAL ELEPHANT TO ITS KNEES! THUS BEGINS THE MOST AUDACIOUS KIDNAPPING IN JUNGLE HISTORY!
Copr. 1934 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved


NEWS OF THE MAHARAJAH'S KIDNAPPING TRAVELS SWIFTLY TO HIS CAPITOL AT NIMPORE ~
Copr. 1934 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

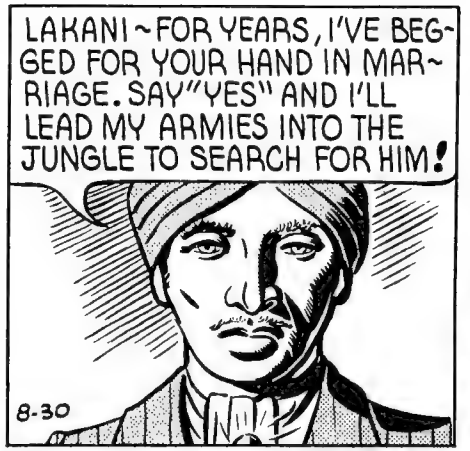
~TO THE MAHARAJAH'S BEAUTIFUL YOUNG DAUGHTER, THE PRINCESS LAKANI, WHO IS TERRIFIED BY THE NEWS ~
8-29


SORAN ~ THE COURT DOCTOR ~
OH, DOCTOR SORAN, I FEEL SO HELPLESS ~ I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FIRST.
POOR CHILD, BE BRAVE.


THE RAJAH OF SIMBAL ~ ~ A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY. .
WELCOME, RAJAH, HIGHNESS. THE PRINCESS IS PROPERLY PERTURBED. SHE WILL BE AGREEABLE ~ TO ANYTHING!
GOOD, SORAN.

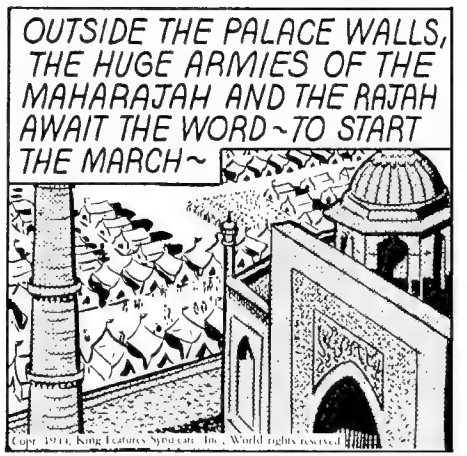
STILL NO WORD OF MY FATHER. IF THE KIDNAPPERS WANT A RANSOM, WHY DON'T THEY SEND WORD?

IF ONLY I WERE A MAN! I AM SO HELPLESS~I'D DO ANYTHING TO BRING MY FATHER BACK SAFELY!

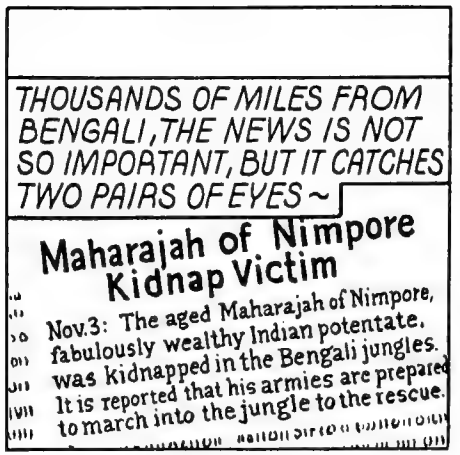

LAKANI~FOR YEARS, I'VE BEGGED FOR YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE. SAY "YES" AND I'LL LEAD MY ARMIES INTO THE JUNGLE TO SEARCH FOR HIM!
8-30

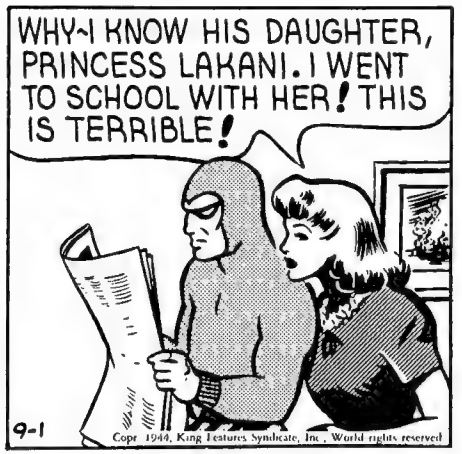
BUT, SIMBAL~ YOU KNOW THAT I~DON'T LOVE YOU.
YOU WANT YOUR FATHER BACK, DON'T YOU?

PROMISE TO MARRY ME, LAKANI. I WILL LEAD OUR ARMIES TO SLAUGHTER ALL THE JUNGLE PEOPLE, AS A PUNISHMENT FOR KIDNAPPING YOUR FATHER.
HE WOULD NOT WANT THAT~ AND YET~OH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
8-31


OUTSIDE THE PALACE WALLS, THE HUGE ARMIES OF THE MAHARAJAH AND THE RAJAH AWAIT THE WORD~TO START THE MARCH~

THE JUNGLE IS SWEPT BY THE TERRIFYING NEWS OF THE APPROACHING WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER~~
SOME FOOL HAS KIDNAPPED THE MAHARAJAH~
ONLY THE PHANTOM CAN SAVE US! WHERE IS HE?


THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM BENGALI, THE NEWS IS NOT SO IMPORTANT, BUT IT CATCHES TWO PAIRS OF EYES ~
Maharajah of Nimpore Kidnap Victim
Nov.3: The aged Maharajah of Nimpore, fabulously wealthy Indian potentate, was kidnapped in the Bengali jungles. It is reported that his armies are prepared to march into the jungle to the rescue.


WHY~I KNOW HIS DAUGHTER, PRINCESS LAKANI. I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH HER! THIS IS TERRIBLE!
9-1
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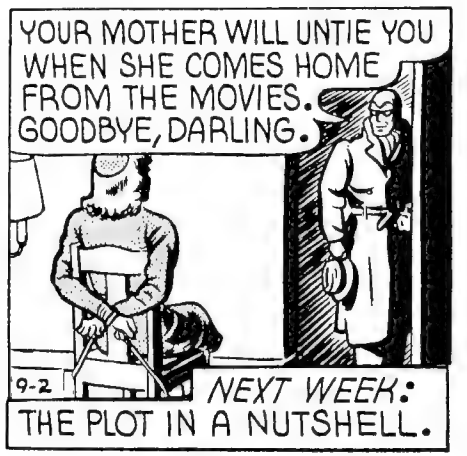
WORSE THAN YOU REALIZE, DIANA. IT MEANS A SLAUGHTER OF THE JUNGLE PEOPLE, UNLESS I CAN GET THERE IN TIME TO STOP IT!

I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!
GOOD! I CAN BE READY IN A JIFFY!
HE SAID "I", NOT "WE", DIANA.

I'M READY!
BUT, DIANA, I TOLD YOU I HAVE TO TRAVEL FAST~ AND ALONE!

NO, YOU CAN'T KISS ME GOODBYE! I SAID I'M GOING WITH YOU.
NO, IT MAY BE DANGEROUS.

I KNOW THE PRINCESS, AND BESIDES, IT SOUNDS EXCITING! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME FROM COMING WITH YOU!


YOUR MOTHER WILL UNTIE YOU WHEN SHE COMES HOME FROM THE MOVIES. GOODBYE, DARLING.
9-2
NEXT WEEK: THE PLOT IN A NUTSHELL.

IN A DIRTY HUT SOMEWHERE IN THE JUNGLE, THE AGED MAHARAJAH OF NIMPORE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN, IS A PRISONER!
HE IS UNHARMED. WE DID OUR WORK, AS YOU ASKED. TELL ME, MEKA, WHO IS YOUR MASTER THAT PAID FOR THIS KIDNAPPING?
THAT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS, CHIEF. HERE'S HALF OF YOUR MONEY. YOU'LL GET THE REST LATER.
9-4
ALL IS WELL, MASTER. THE MAHARAJAH IS SAFE, UNCOMFORTABLE, PERHAPS, BUT UNHARMED.
GOOD WORK, MEKA.
MY PLAN IS WORKING, SORAN. FOR YEARS I'VE WANTED TO MARRY PRINCESS LAKANI. AS HER HUSBAND, I WOULD INHERIT ONE OF THE EARTH'S RICHEST KINGDOMS!
THAT WOULD BE SOON, AS THE OLD MAN CAN'T LIVE LONG. BUT THE PRINCESS HAS REFUSED ME TIME AND TIME AGAIN.
9-5
SO YOU ARRANGED TO KIDNAP THE MAHARAJAH, YOURSELF, EH? SO YOU CAN BE THE HERO, BY RESCUING HIM.
THE PRINCESS IS STILL PONDERING MY OFFER ~ BUT WHAT ELSE CAN SHE DO? SHE'LL AGREE TO MARRY ME ~ I'LL "RESCUE" THE OLD MAN ~
AND I WILL RECEIVE THE ESTATE YOU PROMISED ME.

ANY NEWS OF YOUR FATHER YET, LAKANI?
NONE, SIMBAL, NONE!
9-6
HE IS SO OLD~ I FEAR FOR HIS LIFE~
I AM READY TO HELP YOU, DEAR LAKANI~
Copr 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I WILL SWEEP THE JUNGLES WITH OUR ARMIES, UNTIL I FIND HIM ~IF YOU WILL PROMISE TO MARRY~ME~
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU, PRINCESS?
TOMORROW: WHO ARE YOU?
WHO ARE YOU?
A FRIEND OF DIANA PALMER'S ~WHO, I BELIEVE, IS A SCHOOL FRIEND OF YOURS.
Copr 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I'LL COME TO THE POINT. I DON'T KNOW WHO KIDNAPPED YOUR FATHER, THE MAHARAJAH, BUT I'LL FIND OUT, MIGHTY FAST!
I DON'T WANT THE INNOCENT JUNGLE PEOPLE SLAUGHTER~ ED IN THE SEARCH FOR YOUR FATHER. GIVE ME THREE DAYS.
THREE DAYS~?
THE RAJAH SEES HIS CAREFUL PLAN SUDDENLY GOING UP IN SMOKE~
THIS IS A MADMAN! OUT OF THE WAY, PRINCESS~!
9-7

WAIT, RAJAH SIMBAL! I, TOO, WANT TO AVOID THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.
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I DON'T KNOW YOU~BUT SOMEHOW~I TRUST YOU~IF YOU ARE DIANA'S FRIEND~I WILL GIVE YOU THREE DAYS~I CAN WAIT NO LONGER~

THREE DAYS. IF YOUR FATHER LIVES, I WILL FIND HIM. THANK YOU, PRINCESS.

WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT MASKED MANIAC, WHOEVER HE IS, OR MY WHOLE PLAN IS RUINED, SORAN!
BE CALM. HE WON'T LEAVE THE PALACE GROUNDS ALIVE!
9-8

I HAVE THREE DAYS TO FIND THE OLD MAHARAJAH, OR HIS ARMIES WILL INVADE THE JUNGLE~AND SLAUGHTER THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE~
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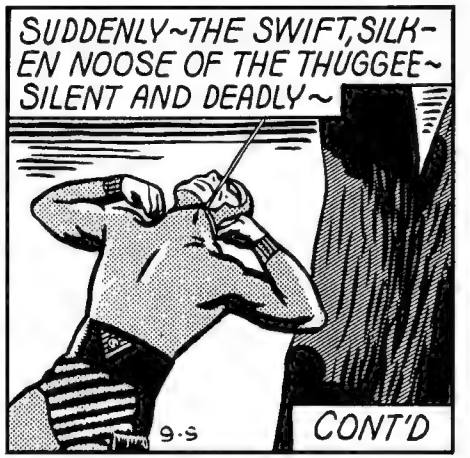
SORAN! ARE YOU SURE HE WON'T GET AWAY?
BE CALM, RAJAH SIMBAL. AS SOON AS HE REACHES THE GROVE~


SUDDENLY~THE SWIFT, SILKEN NOOSE OF THE THUGGEE~ SILENT AND DEADLY~
9-9
CONT'D

THE SILKEN NOOSE OF THE THUGGEES LIFTS THE PHANTOM FROM THE GROUND, THROTTLING HIM~
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FIGHTING OFF UNCONSCIOUSNESS THE PHANTOM GRIPS THE TREE TRUNK WITH HIS POWERFUL LEGS~

SWIFTLY, HE GIVES THE SILKEN ROPE A POWERFUL TUG~
9·11

THE PHANTOM PULLS THE TWO THUGGEES OUT OF THE TREE~ ALL THREE HIT THE GROUND~
9·12
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THE FIRST THUGGEE BOUNCES AT HIM WITH A KNIFE ~ AND BOUNCES BACK AGAIN~!

NOW THE PHANTOM MOVES LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING, AND THE SECOND THUGGEE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO DRAW HIS KNIFE!

INCREDIBLE! HE'S OVERCOME TWO ~THUGGEES!
SHOOT, RAJAH, SHOOT! OR HE'S GONE!

THE PHANTOM'S KEEN EARS HEAR THE SHARP CLICK OF A GUN BEING COCKED ~ HE DROPS TO ALL FOURS ~
Copr. 1911, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

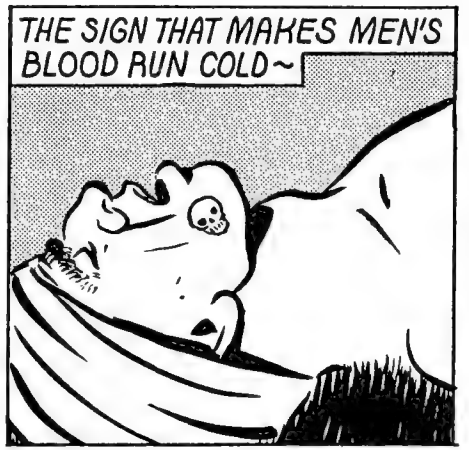
~JUST AS THE RAJAH FIRES!

YOU GOT HIM, RAJAH! I SAW HIM FALL!
SO DID I!
9-13

BUT ~ WHERE IS HE?
GONE!
TOMORROW: THE SIGN OF THE SKULL.

I WAS POSITIVE I HIT HIM ~ YET ~ HE'S GONE! WHO ~ WAS HE?
I DON'T KNOW! THESE TWO THUGGEES ARE STILL "OUT"!
Copr. 1911, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

HE MUST HAVE DEALT THEM TERRIFIC BLOWS. THEY'RE NOT EVEN MOVING ~ AND THEY'RE POWERFUL MEN! RAJAH ~ LOOK!
9-14


THE SIGN THAT MAKES MEN'S BLOOD RUN COLD ~

NOW, WE KNOW ~
THE PHANTOM!

THE PHANTOM! WARN ALL THE GUARDS TO SHOOT HIM ON SIGHT! HE MUST NOT LEAVE THE PALACE ESTATE!
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WE'RE GOING TOO FAR, RAJAH. IF THE PRINCESS HEARS OF THIS~
SHE WON'T. GO AHEAD, SORAN!

YES, DOCTOR SORAN. A MASKED THIEF? WE'LL WATCH FOR HIM. HE WON'T GET AWAY.
9-15

BUT THE GUARDS ARE READY AND WAITING!
NOW FOR A QUICK DASH THRU THE GATES ~ AND THEN INTO THE JUNGLE!

THERE HE IS!
THE MASKED THIEF!
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9-16

COULDN'T MAKE THE GATES! THEY WERE WAITING FOR ME! SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO KEEP ME FROM SAVING THE MAHARAJAH!

SURROUNDED IN THE GROVE, HE SPEEDS UP A TALL TREE~
I WONDER WHO ~AND WHY?

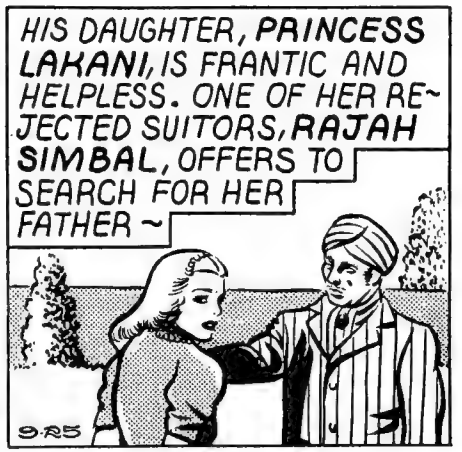
WE'VE GOT HIM! HE'S UP THERE!
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM IS TREED ON THE MAHARAJAH'S ESTATE.
HE'S UP THERE, ALL RIGHT~TOO DARK TO GET A GOOD AIM~
GET AN AXE~ TWO AXES!
THERE'S NO WAY TO GO FROM HERE, EXCEPT DOWN~WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
IF WE CAN'T SHOOT HIM OUT OF THE TREE~
~WE'LL BRING DOWN THE TREE.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THERE SHE GOES!
9-18
AS THE HIGH TREE PLUNGES TO THE GROUND~
THE PHANTOM DIVES~
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
9-19
~ONTO A BRANCH OF THE NEXT TREE~
WHERE IS HE?
UP THERE! IN~ THE OTHER TREE! HE FLEW~!

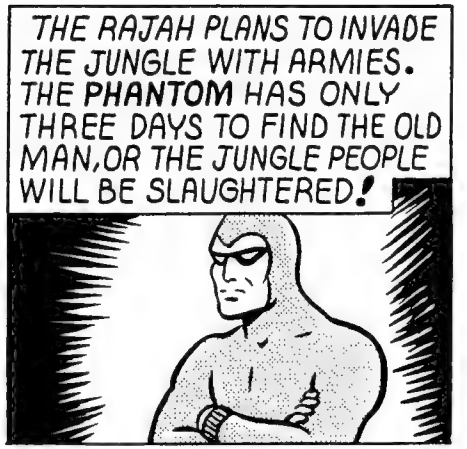
JUMPING TO ANOTHER TREE, THE PHANTOM PAUSES ONLY FOR A SPLIT SECOND~
THEN JUMPS TO THE BRICK WALL SURROUNDING THE PALACE GROUNDS~
AND IN THE FLICKER OF AN EYELASH, IS OVER IT~ AND GONE!
9-20
WE CHOPPED DOWN THE TREE ~HE FLEW TO ANOTHER TREE ~
~THEN HE FLEW TO THE WALL~AND DISAPPEARED! HE HAS WINGS~LIKE A BIRD!
THE GUARDS SWEAR THAT HE FLEW AWAY. AT ANY RATE ~HE GOT AWAY!
THE IDIOTS! WELL, HE'LL NEVER FIND THE MAHARAJAH!
9-21
COME ON, FELLA. WE'VE ONLY GOT THREE DAYS TO FIND THE OLD MAHARAJAH, OR THE JUNGLE PEOPLE WILL BE SLAUGHTERED BY HIS ARMIES!
SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO KEEP ME FROM FINDING HIM! WONDER WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT? WELL~WE'LL SOON KNOW!
TOMORROW: THE DEEP WOODS.

IN THE DEEP WOODS, HOME OF THE BANDAR, THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE! A SENTRY STARES ~ AND STARES ~
~THEN RUNS LIKE BLAZES!
HE'S COMING ~ THE PHANTOM! HE HAS RETURNED!
WELCOME HOME ~ OH, GHOST WHO WALKS!
TOMORROW ~ CLUE.
WHO KIDNAPPED THE OLD MAHARAJAH, GURAN?
WE KNOW NOT, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS.
ALL THE JUNGLE ASKS THAT QUESTION. WE FEAR THAT IF HE IS NOT FOUND, THERE WILL BE GREAT TROUBLE.
YOU FEAR CORRECTLY, GURAN. GREAT ARMIES ARE AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE, READY TO INVADE AND DESTROY ALL THE JUNGLE PEOPLE ~
~UNLESS I CAN FIND THE MAHARAJAH FIRST. I HAVE ONLY THREE DAYS. HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS JUNGLE. WHERE DO WE LOOK FIRST?
NEXT WEEK ~ THE ROYAL ELEPHANT.

THE STORY SO FAR~ THE AGED MAHARAJAH OF OF NIMPORE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN, IS KIDNAPPED IN THE JUNGLE~


HIS DAUGHTER, PRINCESS LAKANI, IS FRANTIC AND HELPLESS. ONE OF HER REJECTED SUITORS, RAJAH SIMBAL, OFFERS TO SEARCH FOR HER FATHER ~
9-25

~IF SHE WILL MARRY HIM! SHE DOES NOT KNOW THAT THE RAJAH, AND SORAN, HER COURT DOCTOR, ARRANGED THE KIDNAPPING.


THE RAJAH PLANS TO INVADE THE JUNGLE WITH ARMIES. THE PHANTOM HAS ONLY THREE DAYS TO FIND THE OLD MAN, OR THE JUNGLE PEOPLE WILL BE SLAUGHTERED!

NATIVES SCOUR THE JUNGLE FOR A TRACE OF THE KIDNAPPED MAHARAJAH ~ WITHOUT SUCCESS.
NO REPORT.
NO REPORT.

ONE DAY ALMOST GONE ~ STILL NO WORD! AND I'VE ONLY GOT THREE DAYS ~ OR THE JUNGLE PEOPLE WILL BE SLAUGHTERED BY THE RAJAH'S ARMIES!
9-26

MEANWHILE, THE LLONGO CHIEF WHO HOLDS THE MAHARAJAH, HAS HEARD THE PHANTOM IS BACK IN THE JUNGLE!

IF THE PHANTOM FINDS HIM HERE, HE WILL DESTROY ME~ I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THAT OLD MAN AT ONCE!

BUT, CHIEF, YOU WERE PAID TO HOLD THE MAHARAJAH HERE.
NO~TAKE HIM AWAY! BEFORE NIGHTFALL!
MEKA REPORTS HURRIEDLY TO RAJAH SIMBAL.
~AND THE CHIEF REFUSES TO KEEP HIM THERE ANOTHER DAY. HE'S AFRAID THE PHANTOM MAY FIND HIM THERE!
WE'D BETTER TAKE HIM AWAY, OR THAT OLD FOOL OF A CHIEF MAY RUIN EVERY~THING. WE MUST KEEP THE MAHARAJAH HIDDEN TWO MORE DAYS.
AFTER THAT, I'LL BE FREE TO INVADE THE JUNGLE, "RESCUE" HIM, AND WIN THE HAND OF PRINCESS LAKANI!
THIS IS WHERE THE MAHARAJAH WAS ATTACKED AND KIDNAPPED. THIS WAS HIS ROYAL ELEPHANT.
IF ONLY WE KNEW WHO DID IT!
LOOK, GURAN~A BRACELET! A LLONGO BRACELET! THAT MEANS THAT THE MAHARAJAH IS IN THE LLONGO VILLAGE!
NOW I KNOW!
TOMORROW ~ DEATH DRUMS.

THE NEWS SPEEDS LIKE LIGHTNING THRU THE JUNGLE GRAPE ~VINE ~
LLONGO HOLD MAHARAJAH·· PHANTOM WILL DESTROY LLONGO
9-29
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AS THE PHANTOM SPEEDS TO THE LLONGO VILLAGE ~
FOOLS ··THEY MAY RUIN EVERYTHING
WILL DESTROY LLONGO
THE LLONGO CHIEF IS TERRIFIED ~
I'LL KILL THE OLD MAN~BURY HIM~ DEEP~
THE LLONGO CHIEF CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE THING! HE MUST GET RID OF THE OLD MAHARAJAH!
WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU ~
MEKA, THE RAJAH OF SIMBAL'S SERVANT, ARRIVES JUST IN TIME ~
FOOL! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
GET HIM OUT OF HERE. THE PHANTOM IS COMING!
9-30
QUICK! OUT THE BACK WAY WITH HIM! I'LL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR GOLD!
STOP BABBLING LIKE A FOOL. I'M TAKING HIM AWAY!
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CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM FACES THE LLONGO CHIEF~
WHERE IS THE MAHARAJAH?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU LIE! YOU KID-NAPPED HIM! HE'S HIDDEN HERE!
NO~NO
10·2
MEANWHILE, AT THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE, MEKA HURRIEDLY MAKES OFF WITH THE OLD MAHARAJAH ~
SPEAK! WHERE IS THE MAHARAJAH?
YOU~~!
I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I GET THE TRUTH!
10·3
SEIZE HIM! KILL HIM!
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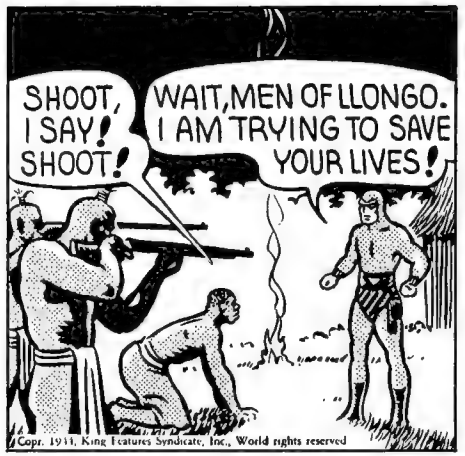
SHOOT, I SAY! SHOOT!
WAIT, MEN OF LLONGO. I AM TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIVES!
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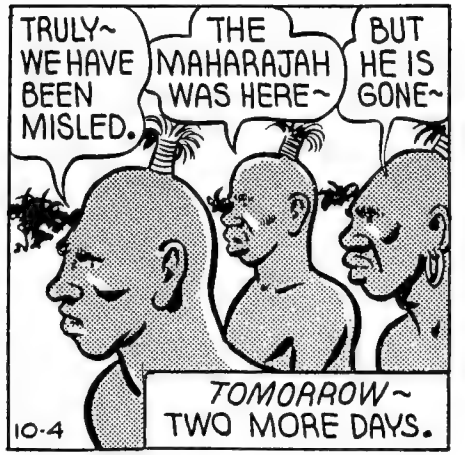
IF I DON'T FIND THE MAHARAJAH IN TWO DAYS, HIS ARMIES WILL INVADE THESE JUNGLES AND SLAUGHTER ALL OF YOU.

YOUR CHIEF MISLED YOU INTO KIDNAPPING THE MAHARAJAH. QUICK~THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE! WHERE IS HE?


TRULY~ WE HAVE BEEN MISLED.
THE MAHARAJAH WAS HERE~
BUT HE IS GONE~
10-4
TOMORROW~ TWO MORE DAYS.

THE MAHARAJAH WAS TAKEN AWAY BY A MAN NAMED MEKA. MEKA WAS ONLY A SERVANT. WHO HIS MASTER WAS, I KNOW NOT.
MEKA'S MASTER, THEN, IS THE EVIL ONE. I WILL FOLLOW MEKA. GUARD YOUR CHIEF WELL. ONLY TWO MORE DAYS LEFT

MEANWHILE, THE PRINCESS LAKANI AND THE RAJAH~
THE MASKED MAN HAS NOT DONE SO WELL. IT IS A WASTE OF TIME. LET ME SEARCH NOW FOR YOUR FATHER.
NO~I MUST WAIT. YOUR WAY MEANS SLAUGHTER. IF ONLY MY FATHER STILL LIVES~
10-5
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MEKA GALLOPS ON WITH THE AGED MAHARAJAH ~
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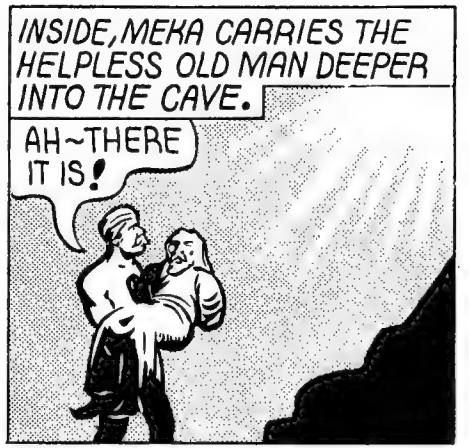
THIS CAVE WILL BE A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE HIM.
10-6
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THIS PHANTOM IS ON OUR TRAIL. BE READY FOR HIM.
DON'T WORRY, MEKA. WE WILL!
THEY FOLLOWED THIS TRAIL. THE TRACKS ARE FRESH! THEY CAN'T BE FAR AHEAD!
AS THE PHANTOM FOLLOWS THE TRAIL OF THE MAHARAJAH'S KIDNAPPERS ~
BUT THE KIDNAPPERS ARE READY FOR HIM ~
HE'S COMING!
QUICK! FINISH IT!
10-7
SPEEDING ON THE TRAIL, THE PHANTOM STEPS INTO A CON~ CEALED NOOSE ~
AND HE IS JERKED INTO THE AIR, FEET~FIRST! AN OLD BUT EFFECTIVE JUNGLE TRAP!
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM STEPS INTO A JUNGLE TRAP THAT JERKS HIM INTO THE AIR~HE DANGLES BY ONE ANKLE~
GOT HIM!
10-9
I'M GOING BACK TO THE CAVE. FINISH HIM!
AS THE THUGGEES ADVANCE TO FINISH OFF THE PHANTOM WITH THEIR LONG KNIVES~
HE SUDDENLY WHIPS OUT HIS GUNS ~ ~
BULLETS ~FROM A MAN HANGING UP~SIDE~DOWN! SOMETHING THEY NEVER EXPECTED!
10-10

EVEN HANGING UP~SIDE~DOWN, THE PHANTOM IS A CRACK SHOT ~
SHOOT HIM!
STICK MY HEAD ABOVE THIS ROCK? NOT ME! YOU SHOOT HIM!
10-11
HOLDING THE THUGGEES OFF WITH ONE GUN, HE SHOOTS AT THE ROPE WITH THE OTHER ~
HE SNAPS THE ROPE, CONTINU~ING TO FIRE AS HE FALLS! THE PHANTOM'S MOTTO: WHEN IN A HOT SPOT, KEEP FIRING!
PURSUED BY THE PHANTOM, THE THUGGEES FLEE TO THE CAVE WHERE THE MAHARAJAH IS HIDDEN ~
HE~GOT AWAY! HE'S NOT HUMAN, MEKA!
IDIOTS! DID YOU HAVE TO LEAD HIM HERE?
HOLD HIM OFF, UNTIL I CAN GET THE OLD MAN AWAY. DON'T LET HIM INTO THIS CAVE!
THE AGED MAHARAJAH OF NIMPORE WATCHES HIS CAP~TOR DULLY, TOO WEAK TO PROTEST.
WE'RE MOV~ING! YOU NEED A CHANGE OF COSTUME. THAT OUTFIT'LL ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENTION IN THE CITY!
10-13

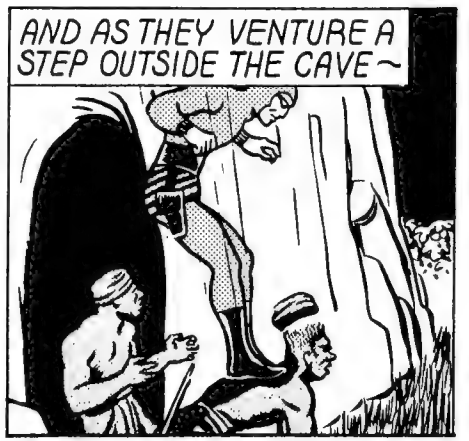
THE OLD MAHARAJAH'S IN THAT CAVE! THIS LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE SEARCH!
10-13

MEKA SAID, HOLD HIM OFF ~ KEEP HIM OUT OF THE CAVE!


INSIDE, MEKA CARRIES THE HELPLESS OLD MAN DEEPER INTO THE CAVE.
AH~THERE IT IS!

LIKE ALL THIEVES, MEKA HAS A PRE~PLANNED EXIT. MAYBE THE PHANTOM IS COUNTING HIS CHICKENS TOO SOON!

WHERE DID HE GO?
MAYBE WE SCARED HIM OFF.
10-14


AND AS THEY VENTURE A STEP OUTSIDE THE CAVE~

MEANWHILE, MEKA IS MAK~ ING GOOD HIS ESCAPE! WILL THE PHANTOM FAIL TO RESCUE THE OLD MAHARAJAH, AFTER ALL?
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM ROUTS THE THUGGEES AT THE CAVE'S MOUTH ~~
10-16
THE MAHARAJAH'S GONE! THERE MUST BE A REAR EXIT IN THIS CAVE!
THIS IS IT! THEY WENT THIS WAY!
TOO LATE! THERE THEY GO!
ONLY ONE DAY LEFT TO RESCUE THE OLD MAHARAJAH ~ IF I FAIL, THE ARMIES WILL SLAUGHTER ALL THE INNOCENT NATIVES ~~
10-17
ALL I CAN DO IS KEEP TRYING. THEY'VE GOT A LEAD, BUT THEIR HORSES CAN'T GALLOP FOREVER ~
MEKA RIDES AS THO PURSUED BY DEMONS!
THAT WAS CLOSE! HE'LL NEVER CATCH US NOW!
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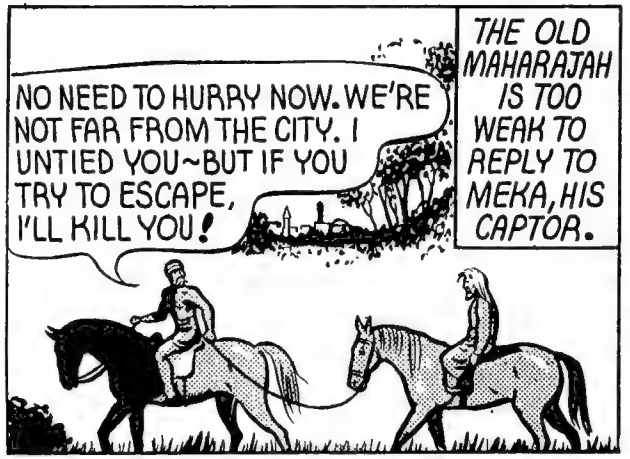
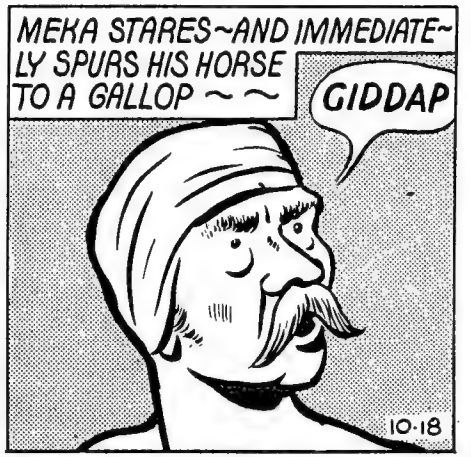
BEHIND, THE KIDNAPPED, AGED MAHARAJAH HANGS ON DROWSILY, WEAK AND SICK FROM THE CRUEL TREATMENT HE HAS UNDERGONE ~


NO NEED TO HURRY NOW. WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE CITY. I UNTIED YOU~BUT IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE, I'LL KILL YOU!
THE OLD MAHARAJAH IS TOO WEAK TO REPLY TO MEKA, HIS CAPTOR.

SUDDENLY, FAR ABOVE ~


MEKA STARES~AND IMMEDIATELY SPURS HIS HORSE TO A GALLOP ~ ~
GIDDAP
10-18

THE SUDDEN START THROWS THE OLD MAN FROM HIS MOUNT ~~
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MEKA SUDDENLY NOTICES THAT THE SECOND HORSE IS RIDERLESS!
MAHARAJAH~ GONE!

BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO STOP NOW!
10-19

NOT WITH THIS CHASING YOU!

IN HIS HASTE, THE PHANTOM DOES NOT NOTICE THE OLD MAHARAJAH LYING IN A DITCH!
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THE OLD MAN ~ MUST HAVE FALLEN OFF ~
IF THE PHANTOM HASN'T FOUND HIM ~ I'LL GO BACK FOR HIM LATER ~
HERE HE COMES! HE DIDN'T FIND THE OLD MAN ~ HE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE ~ AND WHEN HE DOES ~
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10-20
10-21
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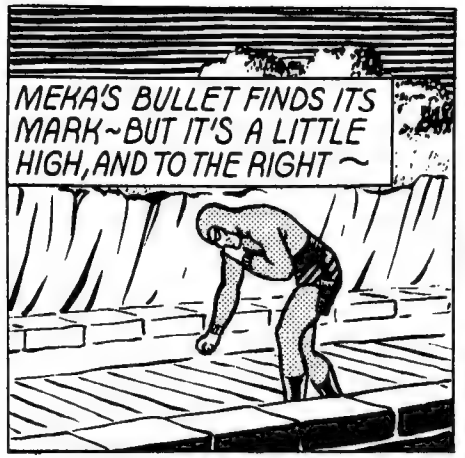
CONT'D.


MEKA'S BULLET FINDS ITS MARK~BUT IT'S A LITTLE HIGH, AND TO THE RIGHT ~

GOT HIM! NOW TO FINISH HIM!

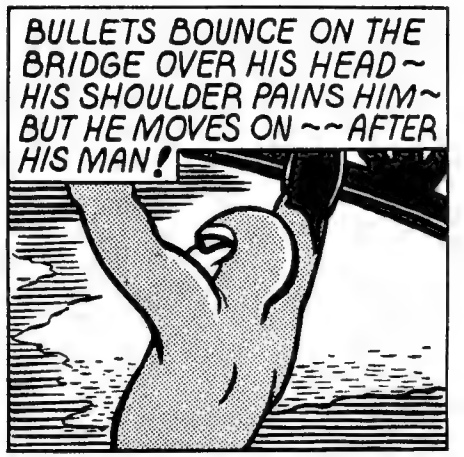
WHERE IS HE?

THE PHANTOM SHOULD BE HERE! WHERE IS HE?
10·23

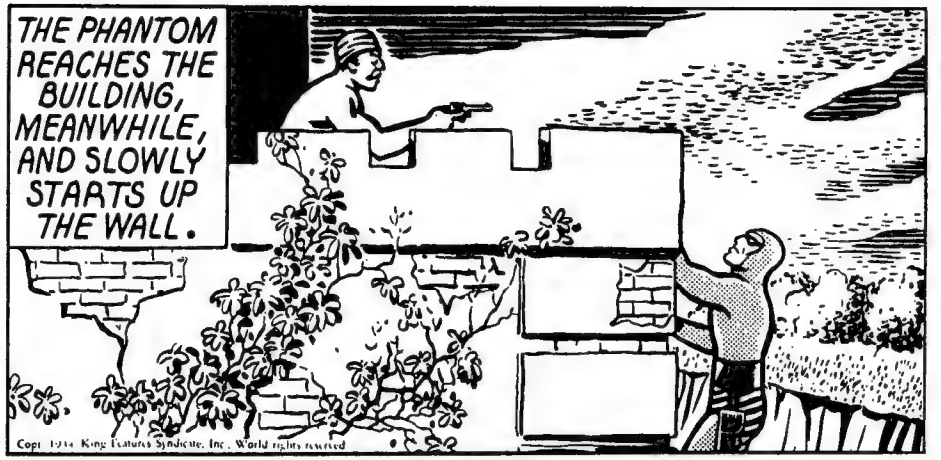
WHERE DID HE GO? HE FELL~I HIT HIM ~IN THE SHOULDER~
10·24

UNDER THE BRIDGE ~ ~THE PHANTOM MOVES SLOWLY, HAND OVER HAND ~

HE'S UNDER THE BRIDGE!


BULLETS BOUNCE ON THE BRIDGE OVER HIS HEAD~ HIS SHOULDER PAINS HIM~ BUT HE MOVES ON ~~AFTER HIS MAN!

CAN'T REACH HIM FROM THE WINDOW ~ MAYBE I'LL GET A BETTER ANGLE FROM THE ROOF ~ GOT TO STOP HIM!
10·25


THE PHANTOM REACHES THE BUILDING, MEANWHILE, AND SLOWLY STARTS UP THE WALL.
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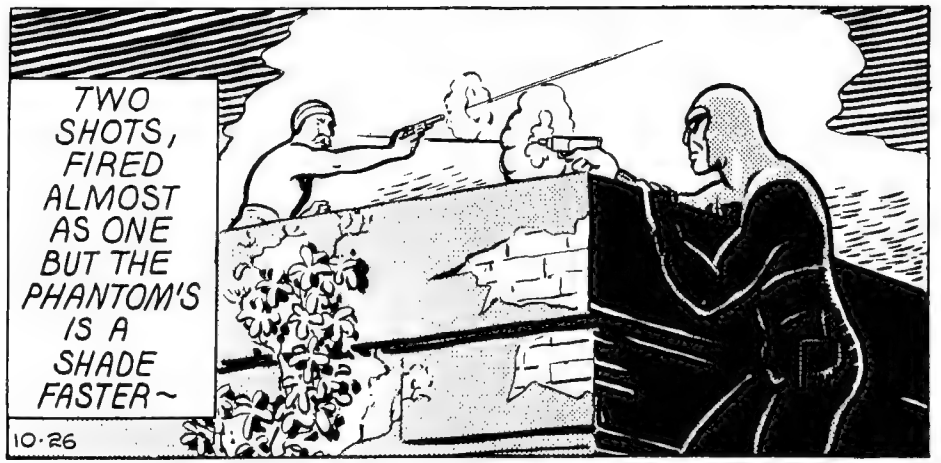
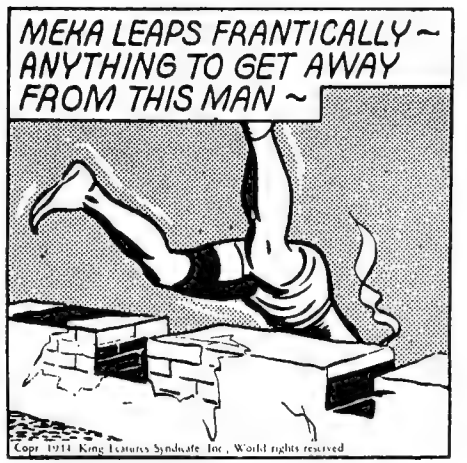

TWO SHOTS, FIRED ALMOST AS ONE BUT THE PHANTOM'S IS A SHADE FASTER ~
10·26

MEKA RUNS WILDLY ~ ~ THE PHANTOM IS AFTER HIM ~ TO TAKE HIM ALIVE ~


MEKA LEAPS FRANTICALLY ~ ANYTHING TO GET AWAY FROM THIS MAN ~
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THE PHANTOM WATCHES GRIMLY, AS MEKA DISAPPEARS UNDER THE WATER FAR BELOW~
10-27
THERE GOES MY LAST CLUE TO THE MAHARAJAH ~ AND MY THREE DAYS ARE UP~
MEANWHILE~~IN THE PALACE~
THE THREE DAYS ARE UP. YOUR MASKED MAN HAS FAILED TO FIND YOUR FATHER.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
NOW~I SHALL FIND YOUR FATHER~AND YOU WILL BE MY BRIDE. THAT WAS OUR AGREEMENT.
TOMORROW~ THE JUNGLE TREMBLES.
THIS IS OUR DAY, SORAN. OUR PLAN HAS WORKED.
NOW, YOU "RESCUE" THE MAHARAJAH, MARRY THE PRINCESS~ VERY CLEVER, RAJAH.
10-28
YOUR FATHER'S FINEST REGI~ MENTS, PLUS MINE, READY FOR BATTLE.
AGAINST UN~ ARMED NATIVES. IT'S ~ TRAGIC.
THE JUNGLE TREMBLES~ WORD HAS SPREAD THAT THE ARMIES MARCH THIS DAY, TO FIND THE MAHARAJAH AND AVENGE HIS KIDNAPPING WITH SLAUGHTER!
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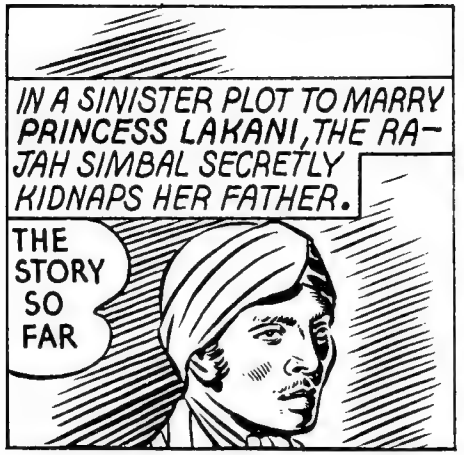
MEANWHILE, THE AGED MAHARAJAH WANDERS AIMLESSLY.
WHERE AM I? WHO AM I?
CONT'D.


IN A SINISTER PLOT TO MARRY PRINCESS LAKANI, THE RAJAH SIMBAL SECRETLY KIDNAPS HER FATHER.
THE STORY SO FAR

THE RAJAH PLANS TO INVADE THE JUNGLE, SLAUGHTER THE NATIVES, AND RETURN, AS CONQUERING HERO~
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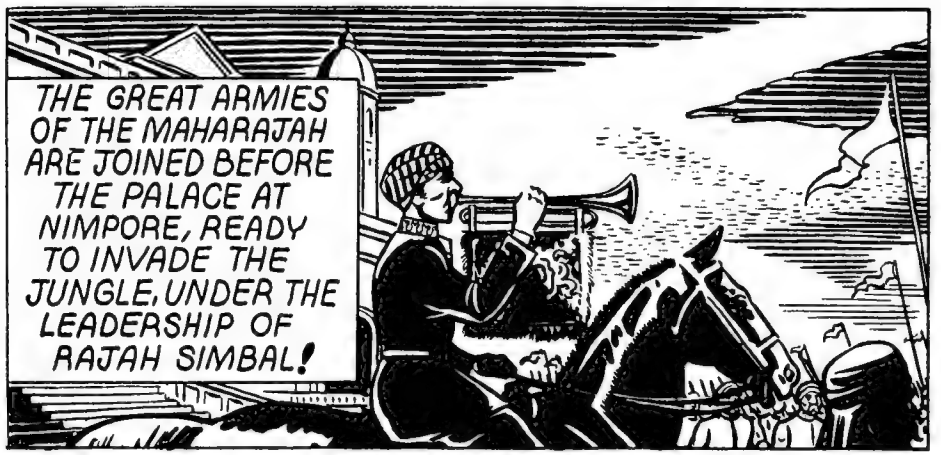
THE PHANTOM DELAYS THE PLAN FOR THREE DAYS, WHILE HE TRIES TO FIND THE MISSING POTENTATE. BUT HE SEARCHES IN VAIN~

MEANWHILE, THE OLD MAHARAJAH HAS ESCAPED HIS CAPTORS, HIS MEMORY GONE, AS HE WANDERS AIMLESSLY~~
10-30


THE GREAT ARMIES OF THE MAHARAJAH ARE JOINED BEFORE THE PALACE AT NIMPORE, READY TO INVADE THE JUNGLE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF RAJAH SIMBAL!

WE ARE READY, PRINCESS.
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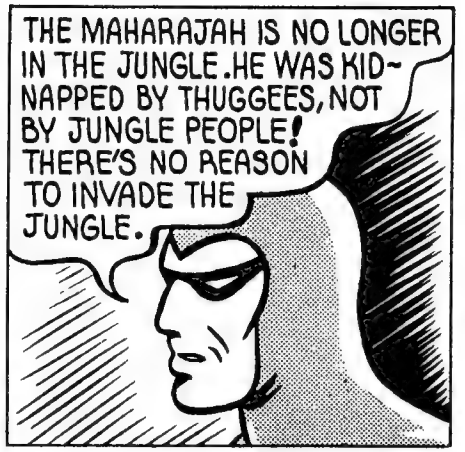
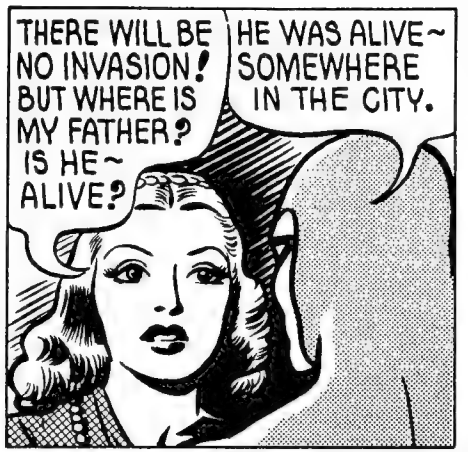
WAIT, RAJAH SIMBAL. HOLD BACK THE ARMIES. YOU ARE TOO LATE TO INVADE THE JUNGLE!
1031

YOU FOUND~ MY FATHER?
NO, PRINCESS.
YOU'VE FAILED~ AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved


THE MAHARAJAH IS NO LONGER IN THE JUNGLE. HE WAS KID~ NAPPED BY THUGGEES, NOT BY JUNGLE PEOPLE! THERE'S NO REASON TO INVADE THE JUNGLE.


THERE WILL BE NO INVASION! BUT WHERE IS MY FATHER? IS HE~ ALIVE?
HE WAS ALIVE~ SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY.

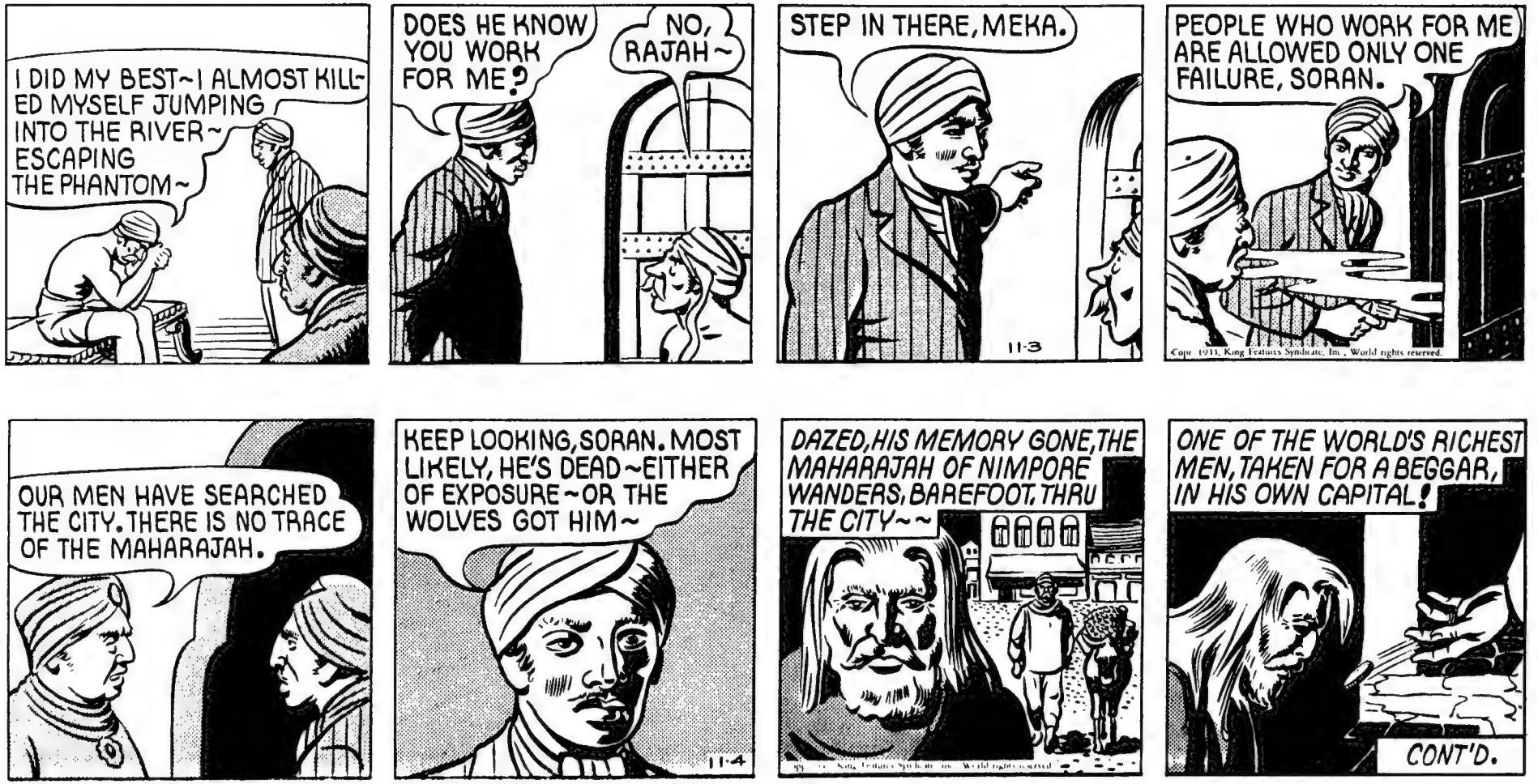
YOU'RE WOUNDED~
I'LL FIND YOUR FATHER ~SOME~ WHERE, SOME~ HOW! KEEP YOUR CHIN UP.
11-1

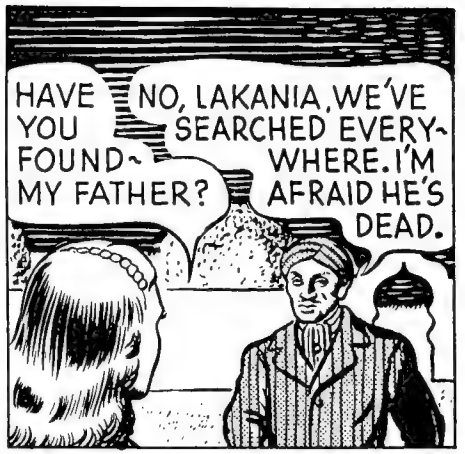
SOMETHING WENT WRONG. MEKA WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING THE OLD MAN TO TOWN~

MEKA!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

THE OLD MAN FELL OFF THE HORSE ~ I COULDN'T STOP~ THE PHANTOM WAS AFTER ME! PHANTOM MISSED HIM, TOO~
11-R

WHERE IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW. I WENT BACK. HE WAS GONE. THERE ARE WOLVES IN THE FOREST-HE WAS WEAK~


I DID MY BEST~I ALMOST KILLED MYSELF JUMPING INTO THE RIVER~ESCAPING THE PHANTOM~
DOES HE KNOW YOU WORK FOR ME?
NO, RAJAH~
STEP IN THERE, MEKA.
11-3
PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR ME ARE ALLOWED ONLY ONE FAILURE, SORAN.
Copr. 1933, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
OUR MEN HAVE SEARCHED THE CITY. THERE IS NO TRACE OF THE MAHARAJAH.
KEEP LOOKING, SORAN. MOST LIKELY, HE'S DEAD~EITHER OF EXPOSURE~OR THE WOLVES GOT HIM~
11-4
DAZED, HIS MEMORY GONE, THE MAHARAJAH OF NIMPORE WANDERS, BAREFOOT, THRU THE CITY~~
ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN, TAKEN FOR A BEGGAR, IN HIS OWN CAPITAL!
CONT'D.

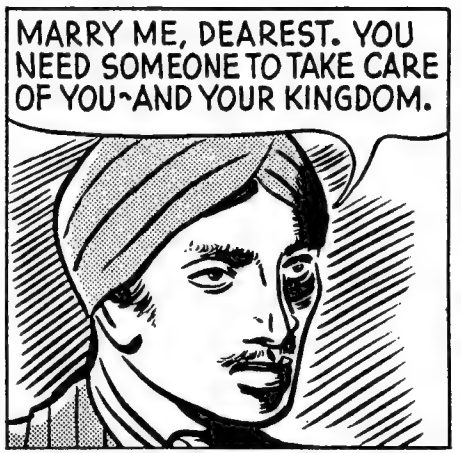

HAVE YOU FOUND~ MY FATHER?
NO, LAKANIA, WE'VE SEARCHED EVERY~ WHERE. I'M AFRAID HE'S DEAD.

NO~ I WON'T BELIEVE THAT! THE PHANTOM WILL FIND HIM!
POOH~ YOU'LL NEVER SEE THE PHANTOM AGAIN.

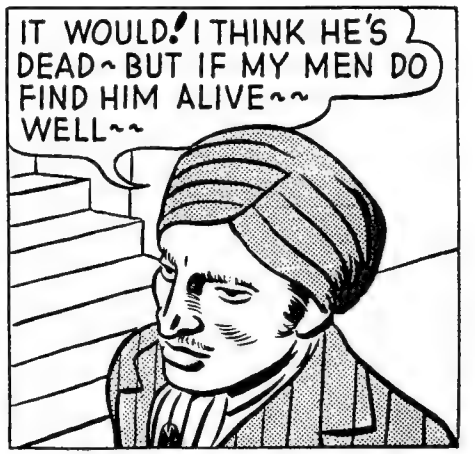
UP TO NOW, HE'S IGNORED HIS BULLET WOUND~~
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP LOOKING, "DEVIL"~~ UNTIL WE FIND THE OLD MAHA~ RAJAH.

BUT EVEN THE PHANTOM IS FLESH AND BLOOD.
HAVE TO KEEP GOING.
11-6

STILL NO WORD FROM YOUR PHANTOM FRIEND. I'M AFRAID HE'S DESERTED YOU.
11-7


MARRY ME, DEAREST. YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU~ AND YOUR KINGDOM.

SHE'S COMING AROUND SORAN
IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF THE MAHARAJAH SHOULD RETURN.


IT WOULD! I THINK HE'S DEAD~ BUT IF MY MEN DO FIND HIM ALIVE~~ WELL~~

THE RAJAH IS RIGHT, PRINCESS. I FEAR YOUR FATHER IS DEAD.
DON'T SAY THAT, DR. SORAN! PLEASE LEAVE ME!

I'LL FIND YOUR FATHER.
YOU ARE MY ONLY HOPE.
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YOU'LL NEVER SEE THE PHANTOM AGAIN~YOU DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS~~OR WHERE HE IS

I AM A FRIEND OF DIANA PALMER
DIANA~ THAT'S IT~ SHE'LL KNOW!
11-8

PLEASE HAVE THIS CABLE SENT AT ONCE.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
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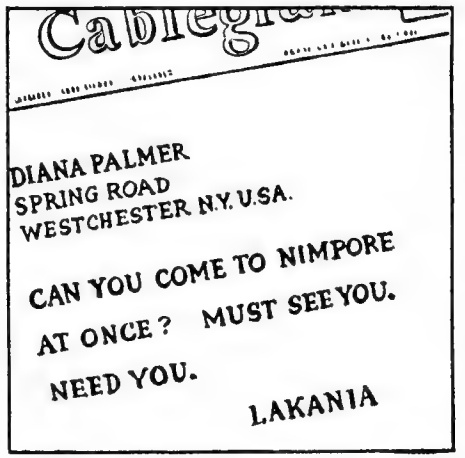
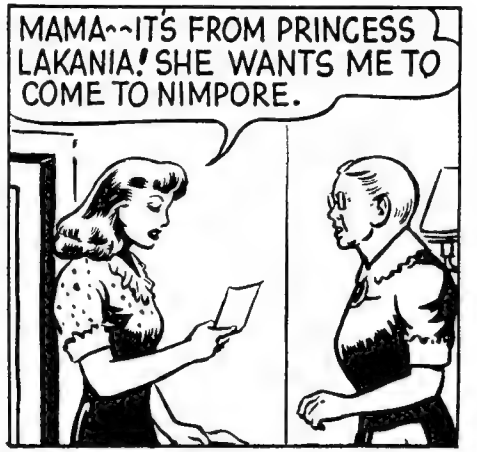

Cablegram
DIANA PALMER
SPRING ROAD
WESTCHESTER N.Y. U.S.A.
CAN YOU COME TO NIMPORE AT ONCE? MUST SEE YOU. NEED YOU.
LAKANIA

NOT JUST A REGULAR TELEGRAM, MISS PALMER. IT'S A CABLE, ALL THE WAY FROM INDIA.
HOW EXCITING.
11-9


MAMA~~IT'S FROM PRINCESS LAKANIA! SHE WANTS ME TO COME TO NIMPORE.

BUT WHO IS PRINCESS LAKANIA, AND WHERE IS NIMPORE?
INDIA. YOU REMEMBER LAKANIA. WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

"LAKANIA WAS MY ROOMMATE. SHE USED TO TELL ME ABOUT HER PALACE IN NIMPORE. I NEVER QUITE REALIZED SHE WAS REALLY A PRINCESS."

I MEAN, I KNEW SHE WAS, BUT SHE SEEMED JUST LIKE THE REST OF US. SHE MADE ME PROMISE THAT SOMEDAY I'D VISIT HER.
11-10

NOW, SHE NEEDS ME, AND I'M GOING.
YOU'LL GO TO NO SUCH OUTLANDISH PLACE ALONE. I'M GOING WITH YOU.
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OOH--WHY DID I EVER GET OFF OF DRY LAND? IF THIS BEASTLY SHIP WOULD ONLY STOP ROLLING-
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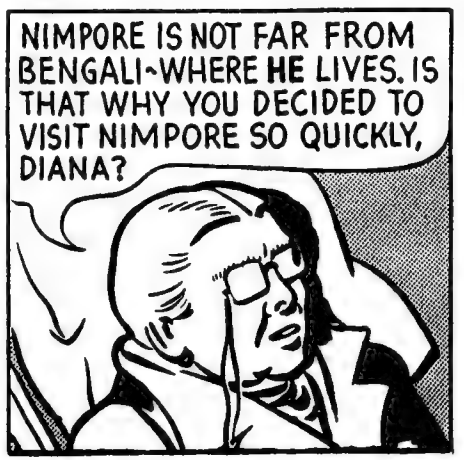
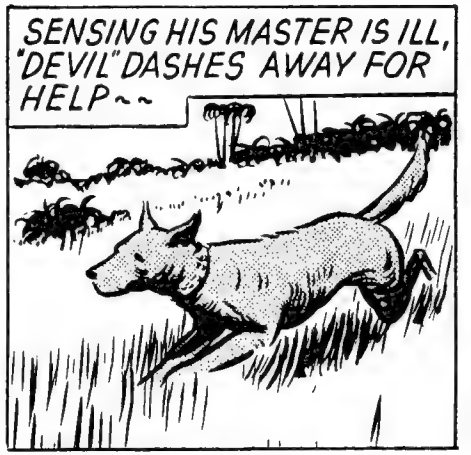

NIMPORE IS NOT FAR FROM BENGALI-WHERE HE LIVES. IS THAT WHY YOU DECIDED TO VISIT NIMPORE SO QUICKLY, DIANA?

WHY, MAMA, WHAT AN IDEA! LAKANIA IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE. SHE'S IN TROUBLE AND NEEDS ME.

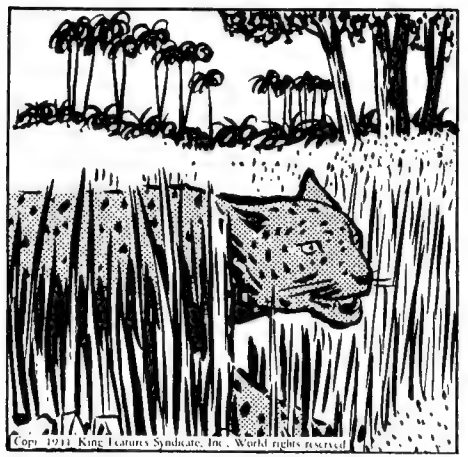
I HAVEN'T ANOTHER THOUGHT IN MY HEAD.
11-11

BADLY WOUNDED, THE PHANTOM TRIES TO CONTINUE HIS SEARCH FOR THE MISSING MAHARAJAH~~

WE'LL FIND HIM, "DEVIL"~~ GOT TO FIND HIM~~ PROMISED I WOULD~~


SENSING HIS MASTER IS ILL, "DEVIL" DASHES AWAY FOR HELP~~

AND A LARGE AND HUNGRY LEOPARD PICKS UP THE WOUNDED PHANTOM'S TRAIL THRU THE LONG GRASS~
11-13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HE SUDDENLY SEES THE LEOPARD TRAILING HIM~TOO WEAK TO GET UP, HE TRIES TO MOVE FASTER ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES~~
HMM~THE HUNTER BECOMES THE HUNTED~

THE HUNGRY LEOPARD LEAPS UP INTO A TREE~~

~~THEN SPRINGS AT HIS HELPLESS PREY~~
11-14

AS THE HUNGRY LEOPARD LEAPS AT THE PHANTOM, A POISON ARROW WHIZZES THRU THE AIR ~~
11-15
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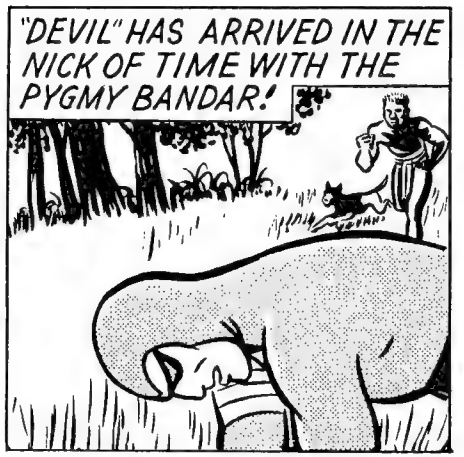

"DEVIL" HAS ARRIVED IN THE NICK OF TIME WITH THE PYGMY BANDAR!

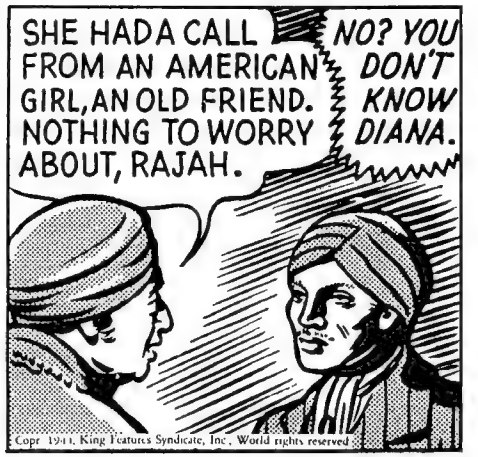
YOU ARE SICK. YOU MUST COME TO THE DEEP WOODS, AND REST.
NO, I PROMISED TO FIND THE OLD MAHARAJAH~

I PROMISED~ UHHH~~~

MAMA, IT'S INDIA!
IT'S DRY LAND! THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT!
11-16

LAKANIA? THIS IS DIANA PALMER! MAMA AND I JUST ARRIVED! WE'RE AT THE HOTEL!

DIANA, DARLING! I'LL SEND A CAR FOR YOU AT ONCE! I'M SO HAPPY YOU'VE COME!


SHE HAD A CALL FROM AN AMERICAN GIRL, AN OLD FRIEND. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, RAJAH.
NO? YOU DON'T KNOW DIANA.
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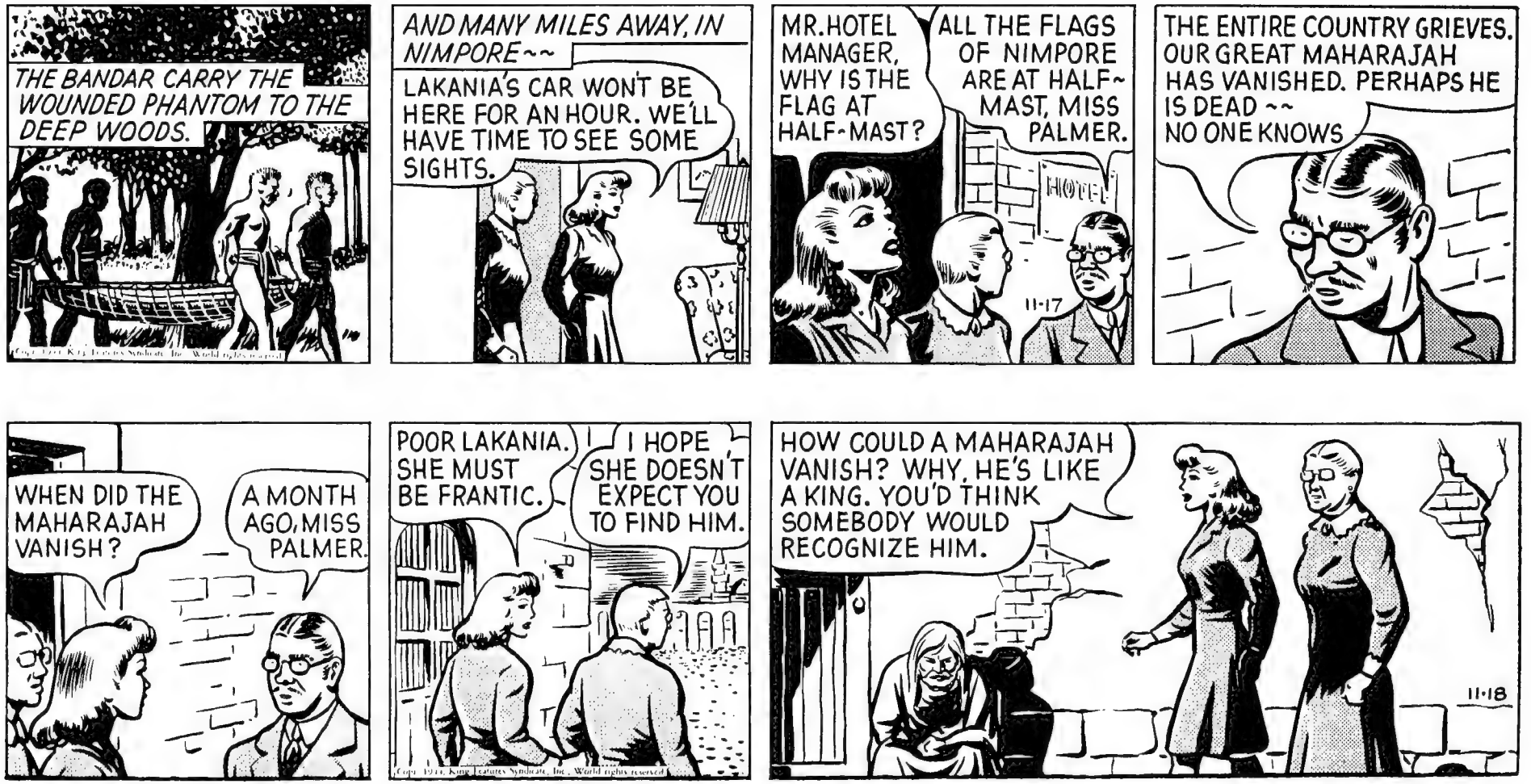
THE BANDAR CARRY THE WOUNDED PHANTOM TO THE DEEP WOODS.
AND MANY MILES AWAY, IN NIMPORE~~
LAKANIA'S CAR WON'T BE HERE FOR AN HOUR. WE'LL HAVE TIME TO SEE SOME SIGHTS.
MR. HOTEL MANAGER, WHY IS THE FLAG AT HALF-MAST?
ALL THE FLAGS OF NIMPORE ARE AT HALF-MAST, MISS PALMER.
HOTEL
11-17
THE ENTIRE COUNTRY GRIEVES. OUR GREAT MAHARAJAH HAS VANISHED. PERHAPS HE IS DEAD ~~ NO ONE KNOWS
WHEN DID THE MAHARAJAH VANISH?
A MONTH AGO, MISS PALMER.
POOR LAKANIA. SHE MUST BE FRANTIC.
I HOPE SHE DOESN'T EXPECT YOU TO FIND HIM.
HOW COULD A MAHARAJAH VANISH? WHY, HE'S LIKE A KING. YOU'D THINK SOMEBODY WOULD RECOGNIZE HIM.
11-18

I STILL CAN'T SEE HOW THE MAHARAJAH COULD JUST DISAPPEAR!
MAYBE HE CLIMBED UP ONE OF THOSE INDIAN ROPES. OH, WELL, I MUST DO SOME SHOPPING.

SORRY, LADIES. MY SHOP, LIKE ALL SHOPS, IS CLOSED, OUT OF RESPECT TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MAHARAJAH.
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WILL YOU TELL ME ONE THING? HOW COULD HE DISAPPEAR? WOULDN'T EVERYBODY RECOGNIZE HIM?
HE IS AN OLD MAN, LADY. HE HASN'T BEEN IN PUBLIC FOR YEARS. WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? IT IS MYSTERIOUS.
11-20

HUNGRY~~ HUNGRY~~
MAMA, LOOK AT THE POOR, OLD MAN, SITTING ON THE SIDEWALK.
HE'S JUST A BEGGAR~ HE'S FILTHY~ DON'T GO NEAR HIM, DIANA.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

GET AWAY FROM HERE~~ I'VE TOLD YOU BEGGARS TO STAY AWAY FROM MY SHOP!

OUR POOR COUNTRY IS FILLED WITH BEGGARS, BUT YOU WILL NOT BE BOTHERED BY HIM ANY~ MORE.
11-21

LOOK OUT, MAMA!
FOR GOODNESS SAKES!

THOSE ARE ROYAL TROOPS, MISS, SEARCHING FOR THE MAHARAJAH. THE SEARCH GOES ON ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

I DON'T CARE IF THEY ARE ROYAL. THEY SHOULD WATCH WHERE THEY'RE GOING!
LOOK, MAMA, THAT OLD MAN!
11-22

THE SICK, OLD MAHARAJAH STANDS HELPLESS~~ CONFUSED. WILL HE BE RUN DOWN BY HIS OWN TROOPS?
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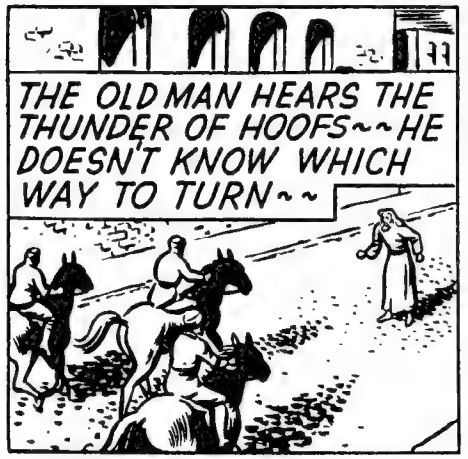

THE OLD MAN HEARS THE THUNDER OF HOOFS~~HE DOESN'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN~~

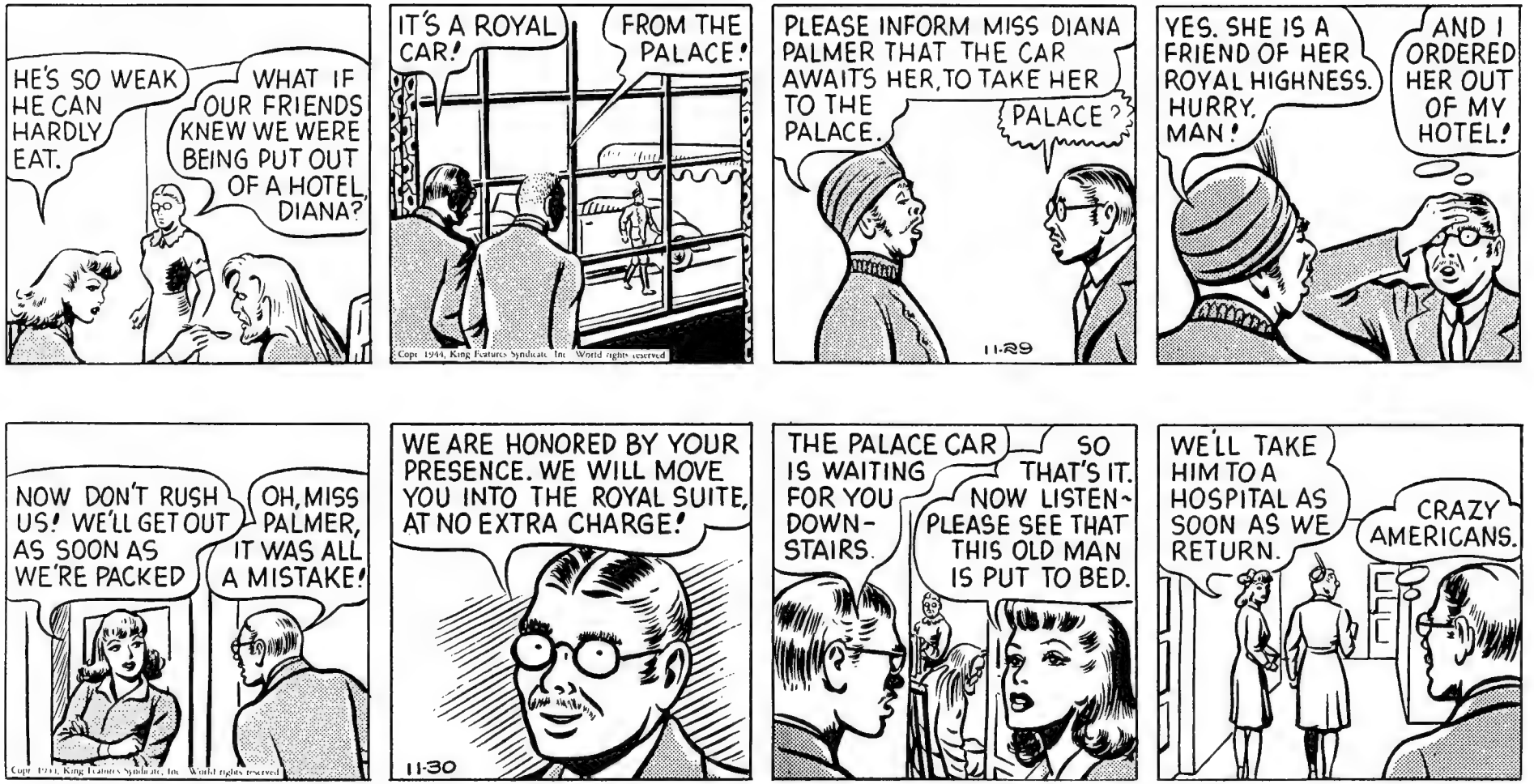
DIANA~ COME BACK HERE!
11-23
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

QUICK, GRANDPA! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU!

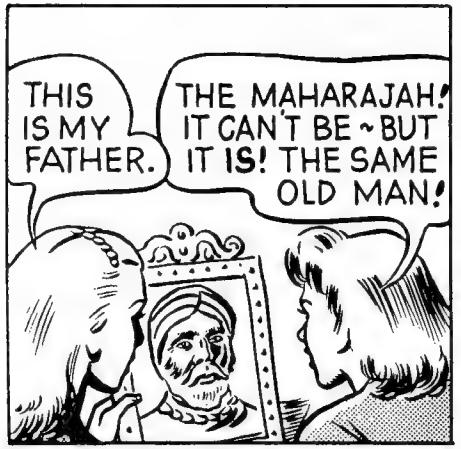
BUT THE OLD MAN STUMBLES, PULLING DIANA WITH HIM, ALMOST UNDER THE HORSES' HOOFS!

11-24
DIANA!
I'M ALL RIGHT. THEY JUMPED RIGHT OVER US.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
POOR, OLD MAN. HE'S SO SICK HE CAN HARDLY TALK.
SICK. IF HE'D BEEN ON HIS FEET WHEN THOSE HORSES PASSED, HE'D BE DEAD!
LET'S CALL A POLICEMAN, OR SOME~THING
NO, HE NEEDS FOOD. I'M TAKING HIM BACK TO THE HOTEL WITH US.
DIANA, THE IDEA OF TAKING HIM TO OUR HOTEL! HE'S NOTHING BUT A BEGGAR!
HUSH, MAMA.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
BUT I JUST WANT TO FEED HIM.
I'M SORRY, MISS PALMER. HE CAN'T BE BROUGHT INTO THE HOTEL.
AT THE PALACE, LAKANIA GRIEVES FOR HER FATHER~
OH, DADDY, WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU?
DIANA WILL BE HERE SOON. PERHAPS SHE CAN HELP~~
11-25
CONTD.

HOW DARE YOU CALL HIM A BEGGAR?
BUT I CAN'T LET HIM IN HERE! THIS IS A FIRST CLASS HOTEL.
YOUR MANNERS ARE FAR FROM FIRST CLASS. GIVE ME YOUR UMBRELLA, MAMA.
11-27
NOW, YOU APOLOGIZE, OR YOU'LL GET A FIRST CLASS FRACTURE
I'M SORRY.
I HOPE I DIDN'T SHOCK YOU, MAMA
YOU MUST GET THAT TEMPER FROM YOUR POOR FATHER.
MISS PALMER, I MUST ASK YOU AND YOUR MOTHER TO LEAVE THE HOTEL AT ONCE.
GLADLY, AFTER I'VE FED THIS POOR OLD MAN. PLEASE SEND UP A WAITER.
BUT DIANA, DEAR, YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM TO OUR ROOM. HE'S PROBABLY COVERED WITH FLEAS.
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T FEED EVERY HUNGRY OLD MAN YOU SEE.
MAYBE NOT, MAMA. BUT I CAN FEED THIS ONE.
11-28


HE'S SO WEAK HE CAN HARDLY EAT.
WHAT IF OUR FRIENDS KNEW WE WERE BEING PUT OUT OF A HOTEL, DIANA?
IT'S A ROYAL CAR!
FROM THE PALACE!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
PLEASE INFORM MISS DIANA PALMER THAT THE CAR AWAITS HER, TO TAKE HER TO THE PALACE.
PALACE?
11-29
YES. SHE IS A FRIEND OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS. HURRY, MAN!
AND I ORDERED HER OUT OF MY HOTEL!
NOW DON'T RUSH US! WE'LL GET OUT AS SOON AS WE'RE PACKED
OH, MISS PALMER, IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE. WE WILL MOVE YOU INTO THE ROYAL SUITE, AT NO EXTRA CHARGE!
11-30
THE PALACE CAR IS WAITING FOR YOU DOWN-STAIRS.
SO THAT'S IT. NOW LISTEN- PLEASE SEE THAT THIS OLD MAN IS PUT TO BED.
WE'LL TAKE HIM TO A HOSPITAL AS SOON AS WE RETURN.
CRAZY AMERICANS.

OH--WHAT A MAGNIFICENT PALACE!
THERE'S LAKANIA, WAITING ON THE STEPS!
LAKANIA!
DIANA, DARLING!
I KNOW YOUR DAD HAS DISAPPEARED WE'LL FIND HIM.
OH DIANA, IT SEEMS HOPELESS-
UNLESS I CAN FIND THE PHANTOM. DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
PHANTOM? WHAT'S HE GOT TO DO WITH THIS?
YES, THE PHANTOM. HE SAID HE KNEW YOU. HE WAS HERE. HE TRIED TO FIND DAD- HE WAS WOUNDED--
WOUNDED? HOW BADLY? WHERE IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW. I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW.
I MUST GO TO HIM AT ONCE!
I'LL TRY TO--- WHO IS THAT?
CONTINUED--


THIS IS MY FATHER.
THE MAHARAJAH! IT CAN'T BE ~ BUT IT IS! THE SAME OLD MAN!

DIANA, WHERE IS HE?
IN OUR HOTEL ROOM!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

AND AT THE HOTEL ~ ~
POOR OLD BEGGAR. I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
WHY?

AS SOON AS THE CRAZY AMERICAN GIRL TIRES OF BEING THE GOOD SAMARITAN, HE'LL BE BACK IN THE GUTTER AGAIN.
12-4

THE NICE GIRL ~ WHERE IS SHE?
GONE, OLD MAN.
12-5

HIS MIND WEAKENED BY ILLNESS, THE MAHARAJAH REMEMBERS ONLY DIANA, THE GIRL WHO WAS KIND TO HIM.
STAY IN BED.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

ONCE AGAIN HE IS HELD BY ENEMIES ~ ~ SO WORKS HIS SICK MIND.
YOU'RE NOT TO LEAVE THIS ROOM, UNDERSTAND?

MUST GET AWAY FROM THEM ~ GET AWAY FROM THEM ~

THE ROYAL CAR REACHES THE HOTEL ~~
WHERE IS HE ~ THE OLD MAN?
UPSTAIRS. IN YOUR ROOM.
IR·6
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
YOUR HIGHNESS, MY HOTEL IS HONORED ~~
HE'S ~~ GONE!
NO ~ NO ~!
WHERE DID HE GO?
THAT OLD BEGGAR? HE WAS HERE AN HOUR AGO.
BUT WHY BE SO EXCITED ABOUT AN OLD BEGGAR. THE CITY IS FULL OF THEM.
THAT OLD BEGGAR IS MY FATHER. THE MAHARAJAH!
IR·7
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THE OLD MAHARAJAH RETURNS TO THE ONLY THING HE CAN REMEMBER. BEGGING ON THE STREET, AT HIS OLD STAND.

I'VE WARNED HIM A DOZEN TIMES NOT TO BEG IN FRONT OF MY SHOP.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE OLD GUY.
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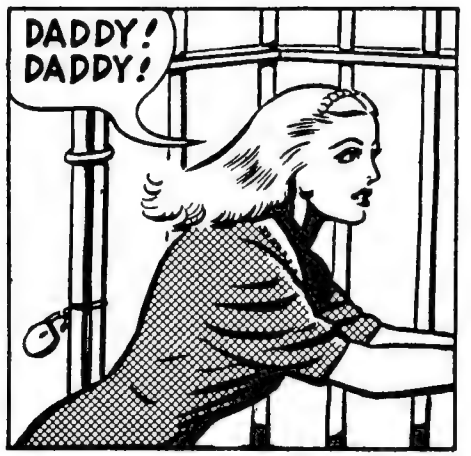
I CAN'T STAND IT~ COMING SO CLOSE ~AND LOSING MY FATHER~AGAIN.
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE~?

THE FIRST TIME WE SAW HIM, HE WAS SITTING IN FRONT OF A SHOP. MAYBE HE WENT BACK THERE! IT'S WORTH A TRY!
12-8

WHERE IS THAT OLD MAN?
THAT BEGGAR? I HAD HIM ARRESTED.

I PROMISED YOU LADIES YOU'D NOT BE BOTHERED BY BEGGARS AT MY SHOP~~
THE ROYAL ARMS! THE PRINCESS!
12-9
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved


DADDY! DADDY!

HE DOESN'T~~ REMEMBER ME~~

THE MAHARAJAH HAS RETURNED! NIMPORE CELEBRATES!
HIS STRANGE CAREER AS A BEGGAR OVER, THE AGED RULER IS HOME AGAIN.
12-11
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
DR. SORAN, HE DOESN'T KNOW ME, HIS OWN DAUGHTER.
AMNESIA, PRINCESS. BROUGHT ON BY THE HARDSHIPS WHILE HE WAS KIDNAPPED.
IF I EVER LEARN WHO KIDNAPPED HIM, THEY WILL DIE THE MOST PAINFUL DEATH I CAN DEVISE!
THEY DESERVE IT, PRINCESS.
LAKANIA, I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOUR DEAR FATHER HAS RETURNED SAFELY.
THANK YOU, RAJAH SIMBAL.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
AND THIS, RAJAH SIMBAL, IS MY AMERICAN FRIEND, DIANA PALMER, WHO FOUND MY FATHER.
12-12
I AM DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU. THE PEOPLE OF NIMPORE ARE ETERNALLY IN DEBT TO YOU, MISS PALMER.
THANK YOU.
SO SHE FOUND HIM! THE LITTLE !@#!! I COULD STRANGLE HER WITH PLEASURE!

DIANA, I OWE SO MUCH TO YOU AND THE PHANTOM FOR FINDING MY FATHER AND SAVING HIS LIFE!
THE PHANTOM~

HE WAS WOUNDED~I MUST FIND OUT ABOUT HIM~~
WHY, DIANA~ ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH HIM?

YES, TO PUT IT MILDLY! HE ONCE TOLD ME HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM. I HOPE IT WORKS. HE'S A HARD MAN TO FIND.
12-13
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

YES, THE OLD MAHARAJAH IS BACK SAFELY IN HIS PALACE, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS.
GOOD NEWS! I WON'T HAVE TO RETURN TO NIMPORE.
TOMORROW: HOW IT WORKS.

HERE'S A CABLE FOR THAT MISTER WALKER, BOX 14. EVER SEEN HIM?
NOBODY HAS. SOME NATIVE KID PICKS UP HIS MAIL.

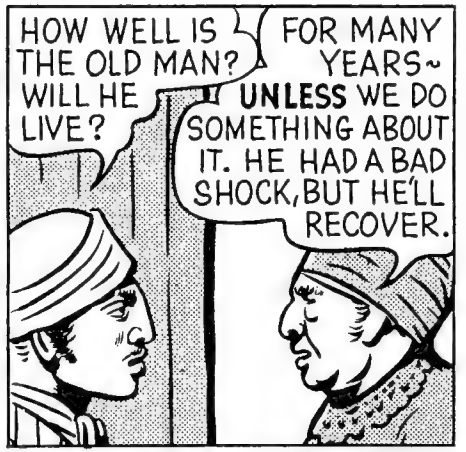
MAIL FOR MISTER WALKER?
YES, HERE'S A CABLE. SAY, KID, WHO IS THIS MISTER WALKER?
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

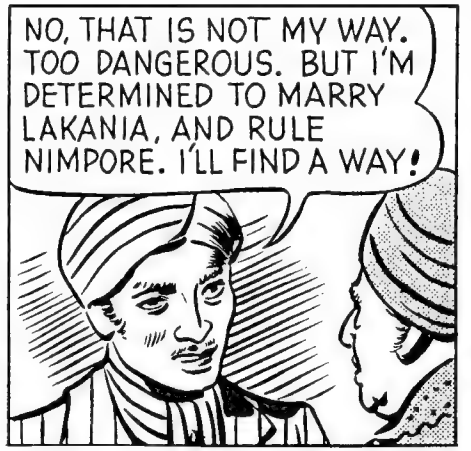
HE IS MISTER WALKER*
*WALKER, FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS

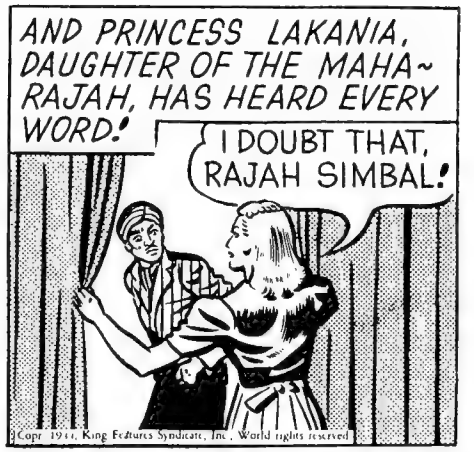
MESSAGE FOR MISTER WALKER.
FOR THE PHANTOM.
12-14
TOMORROW: JUNGLE WIRELESS.

ARE YOU WELL? I AM IN HOTEL NIMPORE. DIANA.
THE MESSAGE IS PICKED UP AND RELAYED FROM JUNGLE DRUM TO JUNGLE DRUM ~~
ARE YOU WELL?.....
ON AND ON, TOWARDS THE FORBIDDEN DEEP WOODS!
I AM IN HOTEL NIMPORE. DIANA.
DIANA ~ IN NIMPORE! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, "DEVIL"? LET'S GO!
NIMPORE. DIANA
12-15
POOR DADDY NEEDS REST. IF I EVER FIND THE MEN WHO KIDNAPPED HIM ~~!
12-16
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WELL, THE MAHARAJAH IS BACK.
YES ~ ALL MY PLANS FOR TAKING THIS KINGDOM ARE RUINED ~ -TEMPORARILY ~
WHAT NOW?
WE'LL WAIT AND WATCH ~ I HAVE AN IDEA ~~
RAJAH SIMBAL AND DR. SORAN ~ THEY ARE TOGETHER A LOT ~ WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?
NEXT WEEK: CAT OUT OF THE BAG.

YES, OUR PLANS TO KIDNAP THE MAHARAJAH FAILED~~ BUT AT LEAST NO ONE SUSPECTS WE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.
12-18


HOW WELL IS THE OLD MAN? WILL HE LIVE?
FOR MANY YEARS~ UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. HE HAD A BAD SHOCK, BUT HE'LL RECOVER.


NO, THAT IS NOT MY WAY. TOO DANGEROUS. BUT I'M DETERMINED TO MARRY LAKANIA, AND RULE NIMPORE. I'LL FIND A WAY!


AND PRINCESS LAKANIA, DAUGHTER OF THE MAHA~ RAJAH, HAS HEARD EVERY WORD!
I DOUBT THAT, RAJAH SIMBAL!
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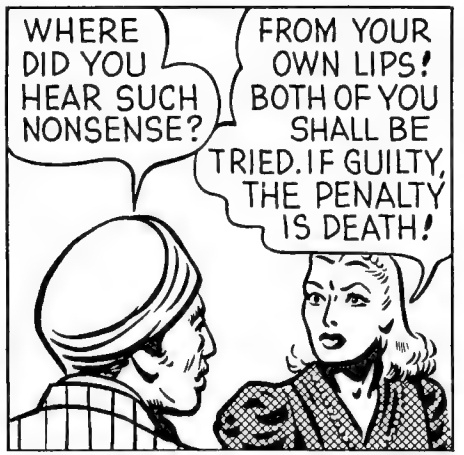
RAJAH SIMBAL, MY SUITOR! AND DR. SORAN, MY FATHER'S DOCTOR! SO YOU KIDNAPPED MY FATHER!


WHERE DID YOU HEAR SUCH NONSENSE?
FROM YOUR OWN LIPS! BOTH OF YOU SHALL BE TRIED. IF GUILTY, THE PENALTY IS DEATH!

YOU FORGET, THEY MUST CATCH US BEFORE THEY CAN TRY US! WATCH THE DOOR, SORAN!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
12-19

RAJAH, WE ARE IN THE ROYAL PALACE ~ SHE IS THE PRINCESS ~~
DON'T BABBLE LIKE A FOOL. IT MEANS OUR LIVES!
12-20
A GUARD IS COMING!
QUICK ~~ THIS WAY!
Copr 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HER?
GET HER OUT OF HERE, OF COURSE!
I DON'T LIKE THIS, RAJAH. WE MAY BE SEEN.
NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO. HOLD HER STILL.
THE CAR IS READY.
THIS IS AWFULLY RISKY! WHAT IF THE GUARDS STOP US?
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT CHANCE.
12-21
Copr 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

LAKANIA IS WELL-HIDDEN~ BUT WHAT IF SHE ESCAPES?
SHE WON'T. STOP WORRYING, SORAN. YOU'RE LIKE AN OLD WOMAN.
12-22

THIS IS DIANA PALMER. MAY I SPEAK TO PRINCESS LAKANIA, PLEASE?

THIS IS DR. SORAN. THE PRINCESS IS NOT HERE. SHE HAS GONE AWAY ON A TRIP.
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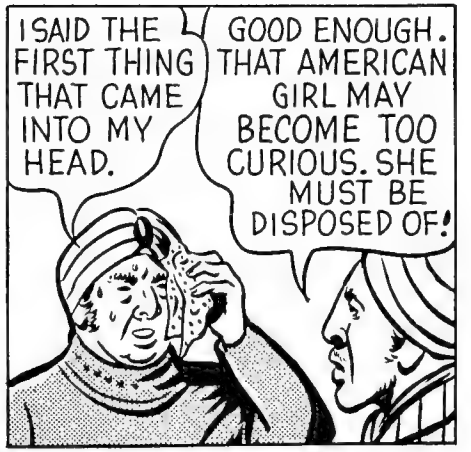
I SAID THE FIRST THING THAT CAME INTO MY HEAD.
GOOD ENOUGH. THAT AMERICAN GIRL MAY BECOME TOO CURIOUS. SHE MUST BE DISPOSED OF!

IT'S STRANGE THAT LAKANIA WOULD GO AWAY SO SUDDENLY. YOU'D THINK SHE'D HAVE TOLD ME SHE WAS LEAVING.
12-23

BESIDES, I CAN'T IMAGINE HER LEAVING, WITH HER FATHER SO ILL.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THESE FOREIGNERS WILL DO.

YOU FORGET, MAMA, THAT WE'RE THE FOREIGNERS, HERE.
US, FOREIGNERS? WHAT AN IDEA!
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LATER, AS THEY SLEEP~~
CONT'D.

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DIANA STRIKES AT THE THUG WITH HER BED LAMP~~
MAMA!
12-25

HIT HIM WITH YOUR CORSET, MAMA!
GET OUT, YOU NASTY THING!

BUT, RAJAH, HIGHNESS, THE WOMEN SCREAMED~THEY WOULD HAVE AWAKENED THE WHOLE HOTEL~~
FOOL!
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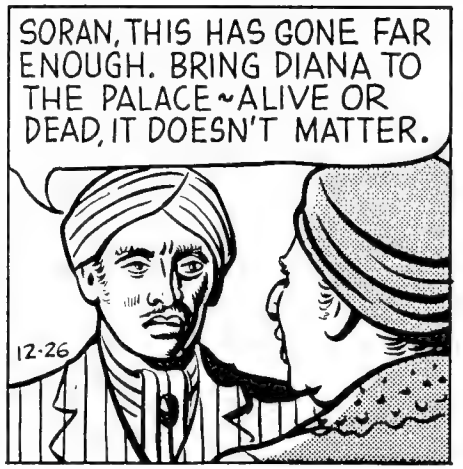
SORAN, THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. BRING DIANA TO THE PALACE~ALIVE OR DEAD, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
12-26

SUCH EXCITEMENT, DIANA! THAT HORRIBLE SNEAK THIEF!
YOU ALMOST BRAINED HIM WITH YOUR CORSET, MAMA.

IT'S STRANGE LAKANIA DISAPPEARED. I'M GOING TO THE PALACE.
I WISH YOU'D FORGET THE WHOLE THING.

AT THE GATES OF THE MAHARAJAH'S PALACE~~
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
BUT I AM DIANA PALMER, A FRIEND OF THE PRINCESS LAKANIA. I WAS HERE YESTERDAY!
YOU CANNOT ENTER. THOSE ARE MY ORDERS.
THAT MAN~ BACK THERE~ HE'S THE SAME ONE WHO TRIED TO BURGLE OUR ROOM! WHAT'S HE DOING AT THE PALACE?
12-27
THEY WOULDN'T LET ME IN THE PALACE~THEN I SAW THAT THIEF WHO TRIED TO ENTER OUR ROOM!
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
FIRST, LAKANIA GOES AWAY, UNEXPECTEDLY! NOW THIS! I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE PALACE!
DIANA, IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS! I WON'T HAVE YOU GOING TO THAT PALACE!
BUT DIANA IS CURIOUS, AND THAT NIGHT~~
I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS
JAIL
12-28

NIGHT~~DIANA ENTERS THE PALACE GROUNDS~~
12-29
SO FAR, SO GOOD. IF I CAN FIND LAKANIA~~
I'LL TELL HER ABOUT THAT THIEF ON THE PALACE GROUNDS. AND HOW I WASN'T ALLOWED TO ENTER AND~~
TWO A.M., AND DIANA'S NOT BACK YET. WHAT'LL I DO?
OH, WHY DID SHE GO TO THAT PALACE? WHY DID WE COME TO THIS OUTLANDISH COUNTRY IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I HEARD A NOISE~~ IN THIS ROOM!
THERE'S SOMEONE~~ BEHIND~~ THAT~ CURTAIN~!
12-30
CONT'D.

SOMEONE~ BEHIND~~ CURTAINS ~OH~
HELLO, MAMA~
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MAMA! DON'T FAINT. IT'S ME!
OOH~I WILL FAINT, IF I WANT TO!

YOU ALMOST GAVE ME HEART~FAILURE! WHY CAN'T YOU COME THRU THE DOOR, LIKE AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING?
1-1

DIANA WENT ALONE TO THE PALACE~ I'M AFRAID~~
NOW, MAMA, WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO HER?
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MEANWHILE, IN THE CHAMBER OF THE MAHARAJAH~
NO, I DON'T WANT ANY MORE ICE CREAM, DR. SORAN. I WISH TO SEE MY DAUGHTER AT ONCE!

SO THE OLD MAN WANTS TO SEE HIS DAUGHTER! THAT'S BAD~ WELL~WHAT'S THIS?
I FOUND THIS GIRL IN THE GARDEN, HIGHNESS.
THE AMERICAN! WHAT LUCK!
1-2

HOW FORTUNATE YOU SHOULD COME. I WAS ABOUT TO SEND FOR YOU!

WHERE IS THE PRINCESS?
CURIOUS LITTLE THING, AREN'T YOU? YOU RUINED MY PLANS ONCE!
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AT THAT TIME, I FELT THAT I COULD WRING YOUR NECK WITH PLEASURE!

IN FACT, I BELIEVE I WILL!
1-3

YOUR HIGHNESS! WAIT!

WELL, DOCTOR SORAN?
REMEMBER, THE OLD MAN WANTS TO SEE HIS DAUGHTER, THE PRINCESS.
Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

THAT'S TOO BAD. HE CAN'T. SHE'S NOT HERE
I KNOW- BUT HE'S ILL ~ HIS EYES ARE BAD~~
1-4

SHE MIGHT PASS FOR THE PRINCESS ~ IN A POORLY LIGHTED ROOM.
HMM~~

IF YOU ARE TO PASS FOR LAKANIA, YOU'LL HAVE TO WEAR SOME OF HER CLOTHES ~~
NO ~~. I WON'T~
IF YOU WISH TO LIVE, PUT THIS ON!
DO YOU THINK THE MAHARAJAH WILL RECOGNIZE HER?
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
Copr 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc World rights reserved
AH~~ PERFECT!
1-5
WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER, DR. SORAN?
COMING, EXCELLENCY.
IF YOU LET OUT A PEEP, I'LL KILL YOU! BELIEVE ME!
I BELIEVE YOU.
Copr 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WHAT IF THE OLD MAN SEES SHE'S NOT THE PRINCESS?
IN THAT CASE WE'LL KILL BOTH OF THEM!
1-6
NEXT WEEK: WILL THE GREAT DECEPTION WORK?

IS THAT MY DAUGHTER COMING, DR SORAN?
YES, EXCELLENCY.
GOOD EVENING, EXCELLENCY. HOW WELL YOU'RE LOOKING.
AH, MY LITTLE LAKANIA ~~ HOW I'VE MISSED YOU~
THE SHADES ARE DRAWN, THE LIGHTS ARE DIM, WILL THE GREAT DECEPTION SUCCEED?
1·8
GOODNIGHT, DEAR DAUGHTER. COME TO SEE ME AGAIN TOMORROW.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
IT WORKED LIKE A CHARM! HE THOUGHT SHE WAS LAKANIA!
FOOLING THAT POOR OLD MAN! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH LAKANIA? KILLED HER?
NO. SHE IS LUCKIER THAN YOU. YOU SEE, WE NEED HER ALIVE.
1·9

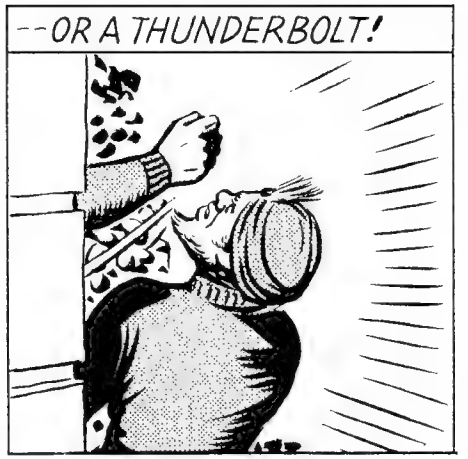
DISPOSE OF THIS GIRL, SORAN, WE NEED HER NO LONGER.
BUT, RAJAH~~SHE HAS A MOTHER AT THE HOTEL. IF THE GIRL DOESN'T RETURN~~
SUCH A NUISANCE! VERY WELL, SEND FOR THE MOTHER. WE'LL GET RID OF HER, TOO.
1-10
DIANA WANTS ME TO COME TO THE PALACE~~AT THIS HOUR?
YES, AT ONCE, MRS. PALMER!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
WAIT DOWNSTAIRS. I'LL GET DRESSED AND BE RIGHT DOWN.
YES, MRS. PALMER.
IT'S ALL SO STRANGE. FIRST, DIANA COULDN'T GET INTO THE PALACE. NOW SHE SENDS FOR ME. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
GO AHEAD, MAMA, I'LL FOLLOW.
THE PHANTOM SPEEDS ACROSS THE ROOFS OF THE SLEEPING CITY.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
1-11

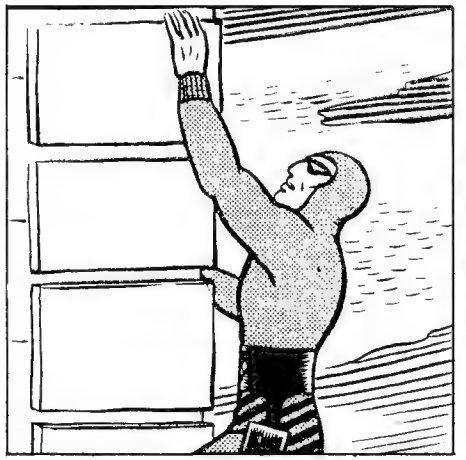
MAMA REACHES THE PALACE~~
1-12
AH, MRS. PALMER. COME WITH ME. DIANA IS WAITING FOR YOU.
MAMA! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ~~
DIANA! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES AT ONCE.
DIANA, THE IDEA! WEARING SUCH AN OUTFIT IN FRONT OF~~
MAMA~ CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? WE'RE PRISONERS!
PRISONERS?
NOT FOR LONG, MADAM.
YOU WILL BE FREED VERY SHORTLY~~ BY DEATH~
THE QUICKEST AND MOST PAINLESS METHOD, WE PROMISE YOU.
1-13

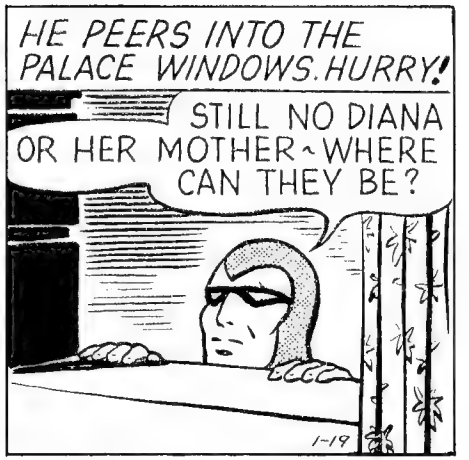
YOU MAY THINK ME CRUEL~~
IF MAMA WASN'T HERE. I'D TELL YOU WHAT I THINK.
DON'T MIND ME, DIANA.
FOR YEARS I'VE DREAMED OF MARRYING LAKANIA AND RULING THIS KINGDOM. I'VE HIDDEN HER AWAY, UNTIL SHE BECOMES SENSIBLE~~
YOU MAY SPOIL MY CHANCES. SO YOU MUST DIE. BEING AMERICANS, YOU MUST LIKE ICE CREAM.
ICE CREAM?
1-15
THE OLD MAHARAJAH HAS A WEAKNESS FOR AMERICAN ICE CREAM~~
THE PALACE COOKS ALWAYS HAVE A LARGE SUPPLY ON HAND~~KEPT COLD WITH DRY ICE~~
THE GAS FROM THE DRY ICE IS DEADLY~ BUT NOT TOO UNPLEASANT.
AND THAT'S THAT!
1-16

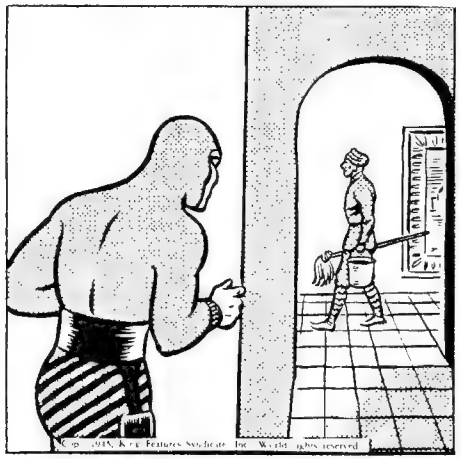
IT'S COLD IN HERE! YOU POOR CHILD. YOU MUST BE FREEZING!
ARE THEY CRAZY? PUTTING US IN HERE WITH ALL THIS ICE CREAM?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, MAMA?
THE FUMES FROM THE DRY ICE WILL KILL US~~
~~UNLESS WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE~ AND I'M AFRAID~~ WE CAN'T~~
1-17
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE, DR. SORAN?
PERHAPS AN HOUR OR LESS, I'M NOT SURE, RAJAH SIMBAL.
IF ONLY HE HAD COME WITH ME~~
WHO, MAMA?
HE~~THE PHANTOM! HE CAME TO SEE YOU.
WHAT! OH, MAMA, HE'LL FIND US. I KNOW HE WILL!
1-18

I HEARD SOMETHING~~ MAYBE IT WAS THE WIND~

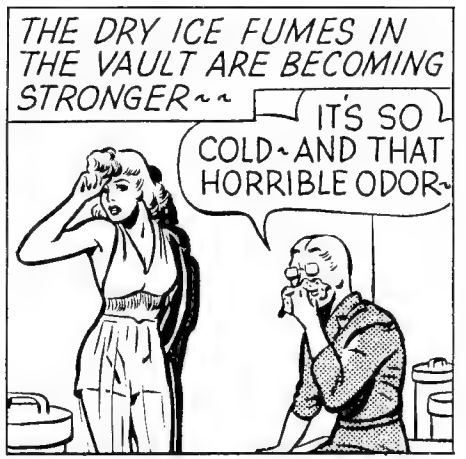

--OR A THUNDERBOLT!




HE PEERS INTO THE PALACE WINDOWS. HURRY!
STILL NO DIANA OR HER MOTHER~ WHERE CAN THEY BE?
1-19



HE SEARCHES THRU THE VAST PALACE~~
WHERE CAN DIANA AND HER MOTHER BE?


THE DRY ICE FUMES IN THE VAULT ARE BECOMING STRONGER~~
IT'S SO COLD~ AND THAT HORRIBLE ODOR~

OH, MAMA, EVEN IF HE FINDS US~ I'M AFRAID IT'LL BE~~ TOO LATE~~
1-20

OH, MAMA, IF ONLY I COULD HAVE KEPT YOU OUT OF THIS ~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I WONDER HOW LONG THE GAS FROM THAT DRY ICE TAKES? MAYBE WE'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK, SORAN.
I'M NOT SURE, RAJAH SIMBAL. WE'D BETTER WAIT ANOTHER FIFTEEN MINUTES.
1-22
DRY ICE?
AS THE PALACE CHEF WALKS ALONG A CORRIDOR NEAR THE KITCHEN~~
WHERE IS THE DRY ICE?
DRY~~ICE? FOR THE ICE CREAM, YOU MEAN? ~IN THE VAULT~~BUT~
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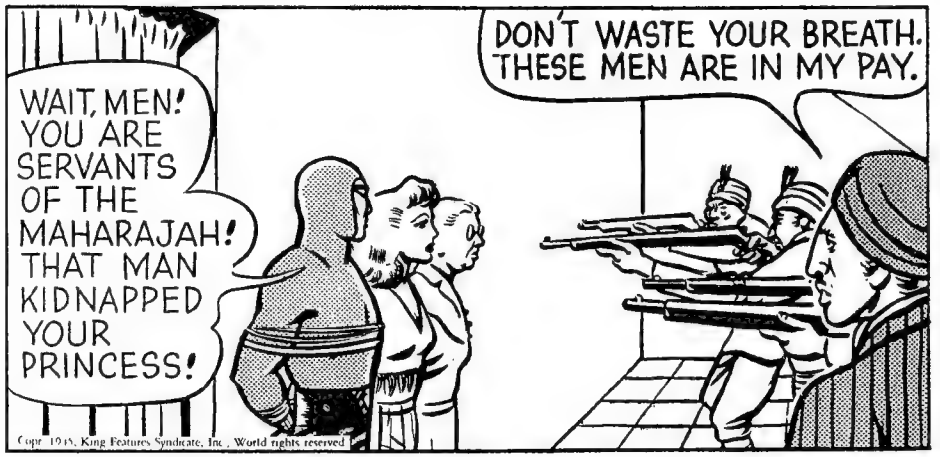
SORRY, CHEF, BUT I HAVE NT TIME TO TIE YOU. YOU'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW TOMORROW.
DIANA MUST BE IN THERE- IF I CAN GET THAT DOOR OPEN~~
1-23

EVEN THE PHANTOM'S GREAT STRENGTH CANNOT BREAK THE LOCK
I'LL HAVE TO RISK WAKING THE WHOLE PALACE~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved
DIANA~~ MRS. PALMER~~
1-24
A SHOT!
HURRY~ TO THE VAULT!
SOMEONE'S BROKEN INTO THE VAULT!
LET ME AT THEM!
THE WOMEN ARE~~ GONE! IT'S EMPTY!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WHO COULD HAVE TAKEN THEM OUT~~AND SO QUICKLY? THAT SHOT ONLY RANG OUT A FEW SECONDS AGO~~LOOK!
THE SIGN OF THE SKULL!
1-25

OF ALL THE LOATHSOME TRICKS! TRYING TO KILL THEM WITH GAS
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
HE APPLIES ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION TO THE UNCONSCIOUS DIANA~~
~THEN TO HER MOTHER~~
IF ONLY I'M NOT TOO LATE~~
THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM!
CALL OUT THE GUARD! IF THEY ESCAPE, WE'RE DONE FOR!
1-26
THE PHANTOM WORKS TIRELESSLY, APPLYING ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION. DIANA REVIVES FIRST~~
I KNEW~~ YOU'D COME~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
MEANWHILE, AS DOZENS OF GUARDS SCOUR THE PALACE GROUNDS FOR THE PHANTOM~~
WE HAVEN'T LOOKED ON THE ROOF.
1-27
CONT'D

NIGHT ON THE ROOF OF THE MAHARAJAH'S PALACE.
LOOK!
HAS A DEAD BEAD ON ME. EVEN IF HE MISSES, HE MIGHT HIT THE WOMEN~~
1-29
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
HELLO. NICE NIGHT, ISN'T IT?
HUH?
TOMORROW~ SMART GUARD.
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
LOOKING FOR YOU! WHY, THE WHOLE PALACE IS~~
JUST THINK! THAT MAKES YOU THE SMARTEST ONE OF THEM ALL!
WHY?
TENSE AS A STEEL SPRING, THE PHANTOM WATCHES HIS CHANCE, THEN DIVES IN~~
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FOUND ME!
UGH~~
1-30
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate Inc., World rights reserved.

THE PHANTOM AND THE GUARD SPIN DOWN THE STEEP STAIRS~~
~RIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF A PACK OF THE RAJAH'S MEN!
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate Inc., World rights reserved
IN FACT A WHOLE SLEW OF THEM!
TWENTY TO ONE. HE HASN'T GOT A CHANCE.
1-31
TRAPPED IN A NARROW CORRIDOR, THE PHANTOM GOES DOWN UNDER A HEAP OF MEN!
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I DID MY BEST, DIANA
IF YOU HADN'T WASTED TIME ON US ~ THEY'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN YOU.
VERY TOUCHING. SHOOT THEM DOWN, RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE!
TOMORROW~ VERY INTERESTING!


WAIT, MEN! YOU ARE SERVANTS OF THE MAHARAJAH! THAT MAN KIDNAPPED YOUR PRINCESS!
DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH. THESE MEN ARE IN MY PAY.
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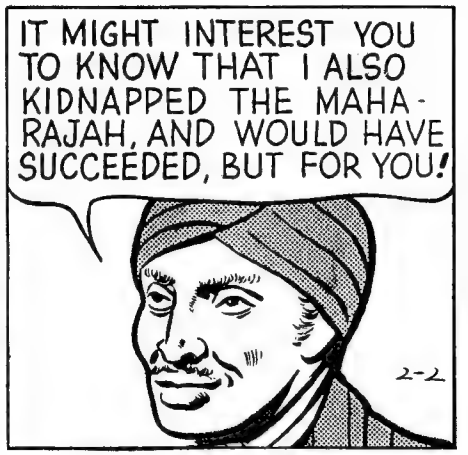
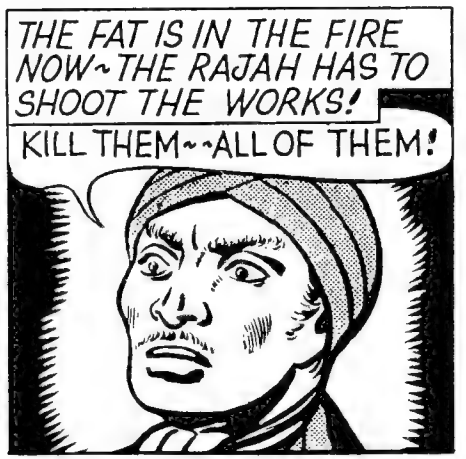
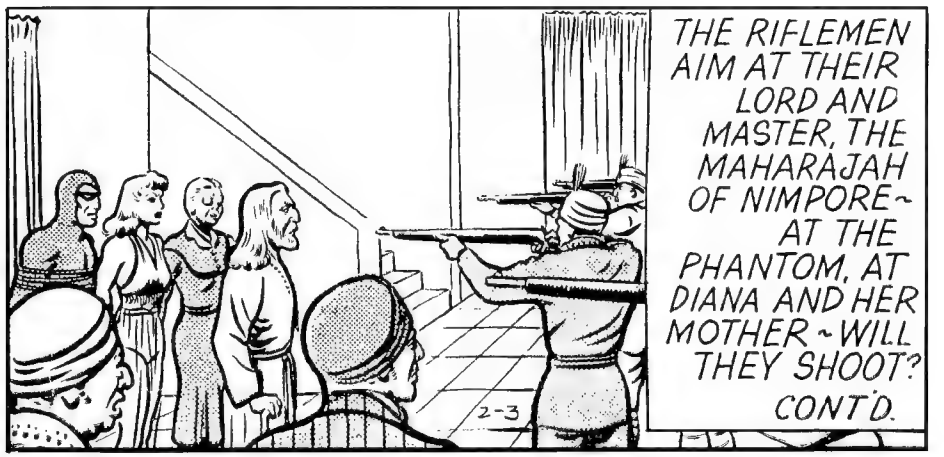

IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT I ALSO KIDNAPPED THE MAHA-RAJAH, AND WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED, BUT FOR YOU!
2-2

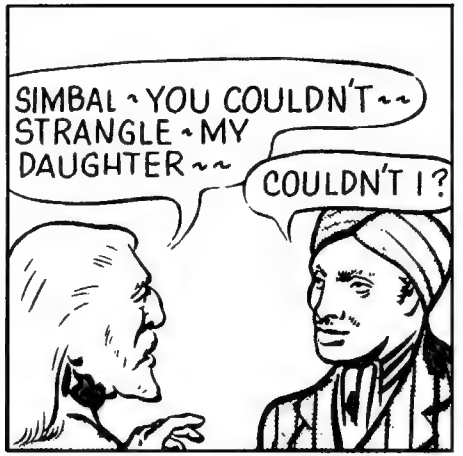
THE MAHARAJAH!
I FIND IT MOST INTEREST-ING, RAJAH SIMBAL!

I HEARD EVERYTHING, YOU WRETCH! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY DAUGHTER?


THE FAT IS IN THE FIRE NOW~THE RAJAH HAS TO SHOOT THE WORKS!
KILL THEM~~ALL OF THEM!


THE RIFLEMEN AIM AT THEIR LORD AND MASTER, THE MAHARAJAH OF NIMPORE~ AT THE PHANTOM, AT DIANA AND HER MOTHER~WILL THEY SHOOT?
CONT'D.
2-3

RAJAH AGAINST MAHARAJAH
PUT DOWN YOUR GUNS.
FIRE, YOU FOOLS! FIRE!
THO' IN THE PAY OF RAJAH SIMBAL, THE MEN HAVE GROWN UP IN THE SERVICE OF THE MAHARAJAH ~~
HOW CAN WE KILL THE MAHARAJAH?
2-5
THE DECISION IS MADE ~AND RAJAH SIMBAL FEELS THE TOUCH OF THE HANGMAN'S ROPE AROUND HIS NECK~~
WE CANNOT KILL THE OLD MAN.
SEIZE THAT SCOUNDREL!
WAIT!
TRUE, EXCELLENCY, I KIDNAPPED YOUR DAUGHTER, LAKANIA. I ALONE KNOW WHERE SHE IS.
"SHE IS WELL-GUARDED BY A THUGGEE WITH A SILKEN NOOSE"
2-6
IF HARM COMES TO ME, SHE WILL BE STRANGLED~~ AT ONCE!

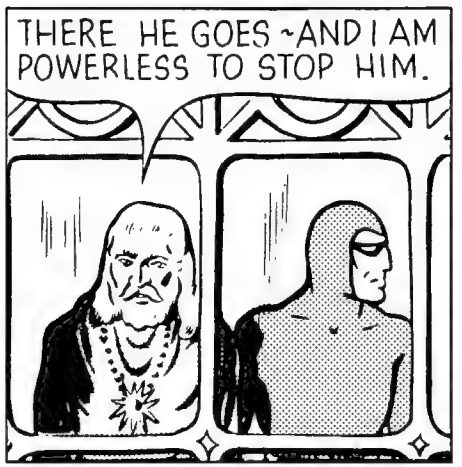

SIMBAL ~ YOU COULDN'T ~~ STRANGLE ~ MY DAUGHTER ~~
COULDN'T I?

UNTIE ME. I'LL GO TO WORK ON HIM
NO! GO, RAJAH SIMBAL.

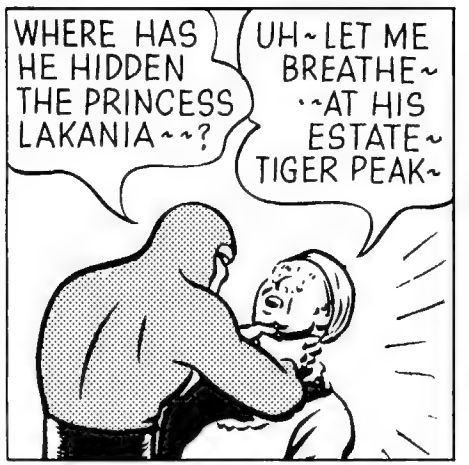
WAIT, RAJAH, YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE!
I DON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE, DR. SORAN, YOU FAT FOOL.

I'LL SEND RANSOM TERMS FOR THE RETURN OF THE PRINCESS ~ ~ ~ AS SOON AS I DECIDE HOW MUCH I WANT GOOD NIGHT, ALL.
2-7

SMILING ARROGANTLY, RAJAH SIMBAL DRIVES OFF, MOCKING THE MIGHT OF THE MAHA-RAJAH ~~

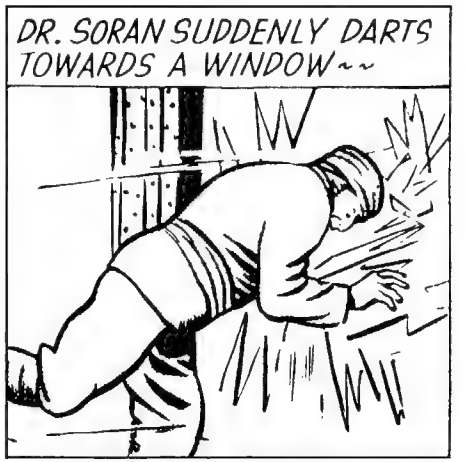

THERE HE GOES ~ AND I AM POWERLESS TO STOP HIM.

AND AS DR. SORAN TRIES TO ESCAPE IN THE CONFUSION ~
2-8


WHERE HAS HE HIDDEN THE PRINCESS LAKANIA ~~?
UH ~ LET ME BREATHE ~ ~ ~ AT HIS ESTATE ~ TIGER PEAK ~

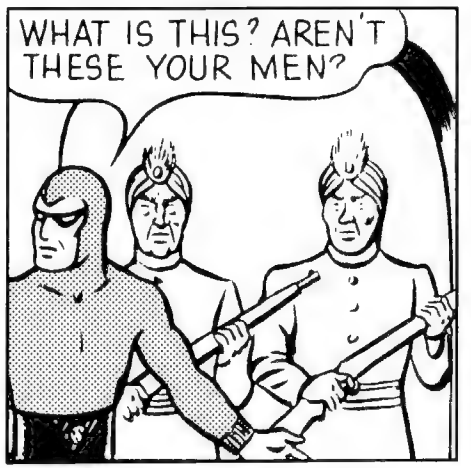
SORAN~ MY OWN DOCTOR
I GAMBLED FOR YOUR KINGDOM, I LOST.

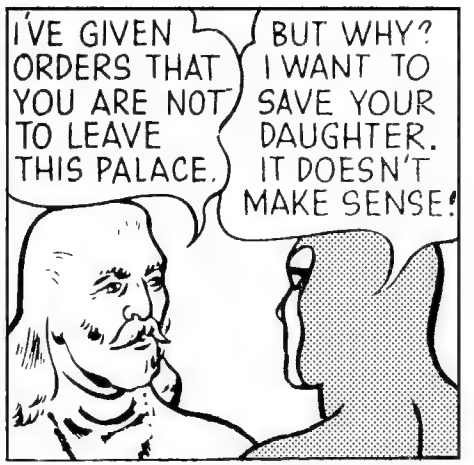
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN RAJAH SIMBAL WOULD DOUBLE-CROSS ME. HE'S A FIEND, DON'T TRUST HIM~~
2-9


DR. SORAN SUDDENLY DARTS TOWARDS A WINDOW~~

YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND A NEW DOCTOR, YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WHAT GOOD IS ALL MY WEALTH~~ IF I CAN'T SAVE MY DAUGHTER FROM THAT FIEND?
I'LL LEAVE AT ONCE, EXCELLENCY. I CAN STILL CATCH RAJAH SIMBAL~AND BRING YOUR DAUGHTER BACK.
2-10


WHAT IS THIS? AREN'T THESE YOUR MEN?


I'VE GIVEN ORDERS THAT YOU ARE NOT TO LEAVE THIS PALACE.
BUT WHY? I WANT TO SAVE YOUR DAUGHTER. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

EXCELLENCY, PLEASE TELL ME WHY YOU WON'T LET ME LEAVE YOUR PALACE.
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I AM AFRAID RAJAH SIMBAL WILL KILL MY DAUGHTER, LAKANIA, IF YOU, OR ANYONE ELSE, ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE HER.
HE WILL ASK A RANSOM. I WILL PAY ANYTHING.
EXCELLENCY, YOU CAN'T DEAL WITH KIDNAPPERS THAT WAY!
2-12
I LOVE MY DAUGHTER MORE THAN MY OWN LIFE. NO HARM MUST COME TO HER. NO~YOU CANNOT LEAVE.
YOU MEAN, WE'RE PRISONERS HERE?
NO, MY CHILD, YOU ARE MY GUESTS.
THERE ARE FIVE THOUSAND GUARDS POSTED OUT THERE, ONE EVERY FIVE FEET. THEY'VE BEEN TOLD YOU ARE NOT TO LEAVE HERE.
YOU CAN'T PAY RANSOM TO RAJAH SIMBAL. IT NEVER WORKS!
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. GOODNIGHT.
2-13
TIME I WAS GOING, DIANA.
GOING? HOW? THOSE GUARDS ARE THICKER THAN FLEAS! FIVE THOUSAND OF THEM!
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HE CAN'T ESCAPE THROUGH FIVE THOUSAND GUARDS. OH, DARLING, COME BACK!
2-14
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO
THERE HE GOES~~
TOWARD THE ROYAL STABLES!
THE PHANTOM HAS A PLAN~WHAT IS IT?
THE MAHA~ RAJAH'S GUARDS SURROUND THE ROYAL STABLES~~ BELIEVING THEY'VE TRAPPED THE PHANTOM~
LUCKY I REMEMBERED YOU, BOY. THE MAHARAJAH'S FAVORITE RACER~~
ROYAL HERO
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
ONE OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST~~AND MOST EXPENSIVE HORSES~~ COST NEARLY A MILLION
2-15
LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE WORTH IT, ROYAL HERO!

GANGWAY!
DON'T SHOOT, FOOL~ HE'S RIDING ROYAL HERO!
I KNEW THEY WOULDN'T SHOOT YOU. YOU COST TOO MUCH AND YOU'RE THE APPLE OF THE MAHARAJAH'S EYE
2-16
EXCELLENCY, HE ESCAPED ON ROYAL HERO.
THAT'S GOOD!
GOOD?
WHY, YOU'RE HAPPY THE PHANTOM ESCAPED!
I AM, INDEED, MY DEAR.
I KNEW RANSOM WOULD NEVER WORK WITH RAJAH SIMBAL. ONCE LAKANIA IS BACK, HE'D BE HANGED AND HE KNOWS IT.
2-17
I NEEDED A MAN OF GREAT BRAVERY AND CUNNING TO SAVE MY DAUGHTER. I'VE HEARD OF YOUR PHANTOM, BUT I WANTED TO TEST HIM.
ANY MAN WHO CAN ESCAPE FIVE THOUSAND GUARDS CAN DO ANYTHING!
NEXT WEEK~~TIGER PEAK

I FEEL BETTER, MR. MAHA-RAJAH, BUT THAT ICE-ROOM BROUGHT ON A TOUCH OF MY OLD ARTHRITIS.
IT GETS ME IN THE ARMS.
I HAVE A TOUCH OF IT OCCASIONALLY, IN MY NECK.
..AND ALL THE DOCTORS SAID I HAD A REMARKABLE RECOVERY.
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY OPERATION, MRS. PALMER.
MAMA AND THE MAHA-RAJAH ARE GETTING ALONG FINE! BUT WHERE IS HE? OH, DARLING-BE CAREFUL~~
2-19
THE MAHARAJAH WON'T MIND MY BORROWING YOU, SINCE WE'RE GOING AFTER HIS DAUGHTER.
2-20
WE PICK UP THE THIRD MEMBER OF OUR PARTY HERE.
"DEVIL", MEET HERO.
LET RAJAH SIMBAL DO HIS WORST. THIS COM-BINATION WILL BE HARD TO BEAT.

RAJAH SIMBAL REACHES HIS FORBIDDING CASTLE AT TIGER PEAK.
IS SHE ALRIGHT?
SHE HAS BEEN GUARDED WELL, HIGHNESS.
2-21
AH, THERE SHE IS! MY LOVELY PRINCESS LAKANIA
WELL-GUARDED, --INDEED.
RAJAH SIMBAL TOUCHES A BUTTON - SECTIONS OF THE IRON FENCE MOVE TO FORM A CORRIDOR THRU THE TIGER YARD
RIMA! NIMA! YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB!
YOU -- HORRIBLE-
DON'T SAY IT, LAKANIA DEAR, REMEMBER YOU ARE A PRINCESS, AND A LADY.
2 22

I TRUST YOU'VE BEEN COMFORTABLE, LAKANIA
COMFORT-ABLE?

WITH THOSE TIGERS OUT-SIDE THIS WINDOW DAY AND NIGHT?
THE WINDOW IS OF SPECIAL GLASS. THEY CANNOT BREAK IT.

AND WHEN I LEAST EXPECT IT, THAT HORRIBLE MAN POPS OUT OF THE FLOOR
JUST KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU, LAKANIA. MY THUGGEES NEVER SLEEP, AND THEY NEVER FAIL ME.
2-23

RAJAH SIMBAL, YOU'RE MAD~ WITH YOUR TIGERS AND THUGGEES! THAT BELONGS TO THE MIDDLE AGES!
PERHAPS I DO, TOO.

I HAVE ANOTHER OLD~ FASHIONED IDEA. I INTEND TO MARRY YOU, AND INHERIT YOUR FATHER'S KINGDOM. WHETHER YOU LIKE IT~~OR NOT!

HIGHNESS, A MAN IS COMING TO TIGER PEAK! HE WEARS A STRANGE COSTUME AND~~
THE PHANTOM!

DOWN THERE, RAJAH SIMBAL, HIGHNESS.
I ~~ SEE.
IT IS THE PHANTOM. HE DARED FOLLOW ME! STRANGERS ARE RARE AT TIGER PEAK.
2-26
RIMA AND NIMI WILL GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME!
COME RIMA AND NIMI. WE MUST BE HOSPITABLE. A GUEST IS COMING.
2-27
THE HUGE TIGERS MOVE THRU AN IRON RUNWAY THAT IS BUILT FAR DOWN THE SLOPE ~~
~TO A CAGE BUILT INTO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD BY WHICH THE PHANTOM MUST PASS! TIGER PEAK IS WELL-NAMED!
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SO THAT'S THE RAJAH'S HANG-OUT. GLOOMY LITTLE BUNGALOW.
IN HIS CASTLE THE RAJAH PULLS A LEVER IN THE WALL~~
2-28
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
FAR BELOW, ON THE ROAD, THE CAGE DOOR SLOWLY RISES~~
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HERO? SOMETHING AROUND THAT BEND IN THE ROAD?
WHOA, HERO!
THE GROWL OF A TIGER IS A TERRIFYING THING! TWO GROWLS ARE EVEN WORSE.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
CLIFFS ARE TOO HIGH. NO WAY OFF THIS ROAD!
3-1
TIGERS LOVE HORSEFLESH! HUMAN FLESH, TOO! THIS ONE IS HUNGRY! HE CAN HARDLY WAIT!

THE GREAT CAT LEAPS, BUT MISSES HIS MARK, AS HERO DARTS TO THE SIDE ~~

MARVELOUS! THE CATS ARE PLAYING WITH THEM! THEY'VE GOT THEM, TRAPPED LIKE RATS!
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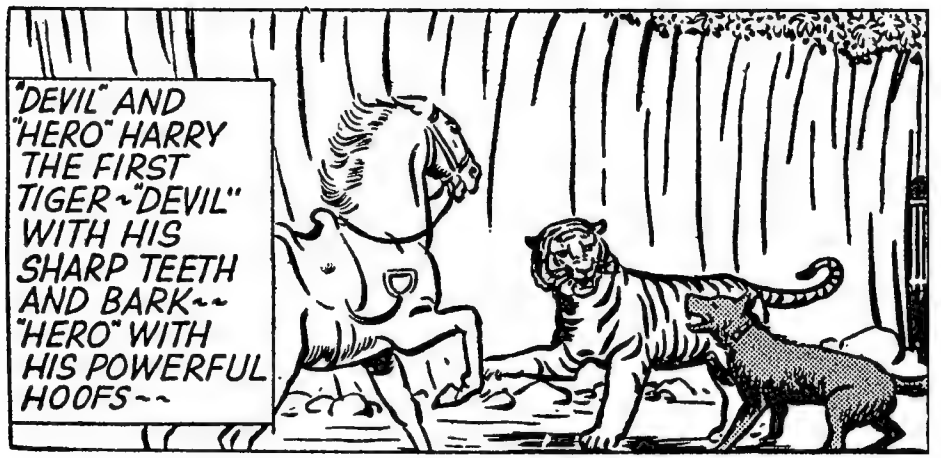
3-2

ONE TIGER WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH! TWO ARE A PROBLEM!


"DEVIL" AND "HERO" HARRY THE FIRST TIGER ~ "DEVIL" WITH HIS SHARP TEETH AND BARK ~~ "HERO" WITH HIS POWERFUL HOOFS ~~

THE SECOND TIGER MAKES THE PHANTOM HIS TARGET, AND SPRINGS AT HIM ~~
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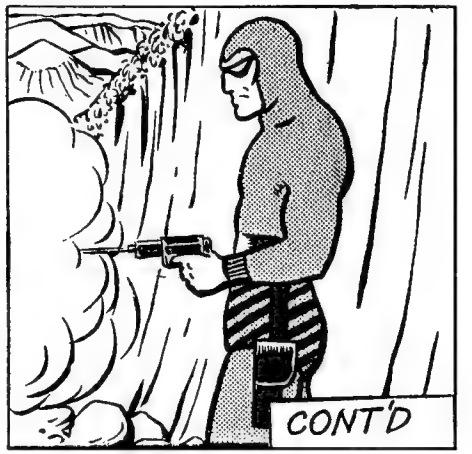
3-3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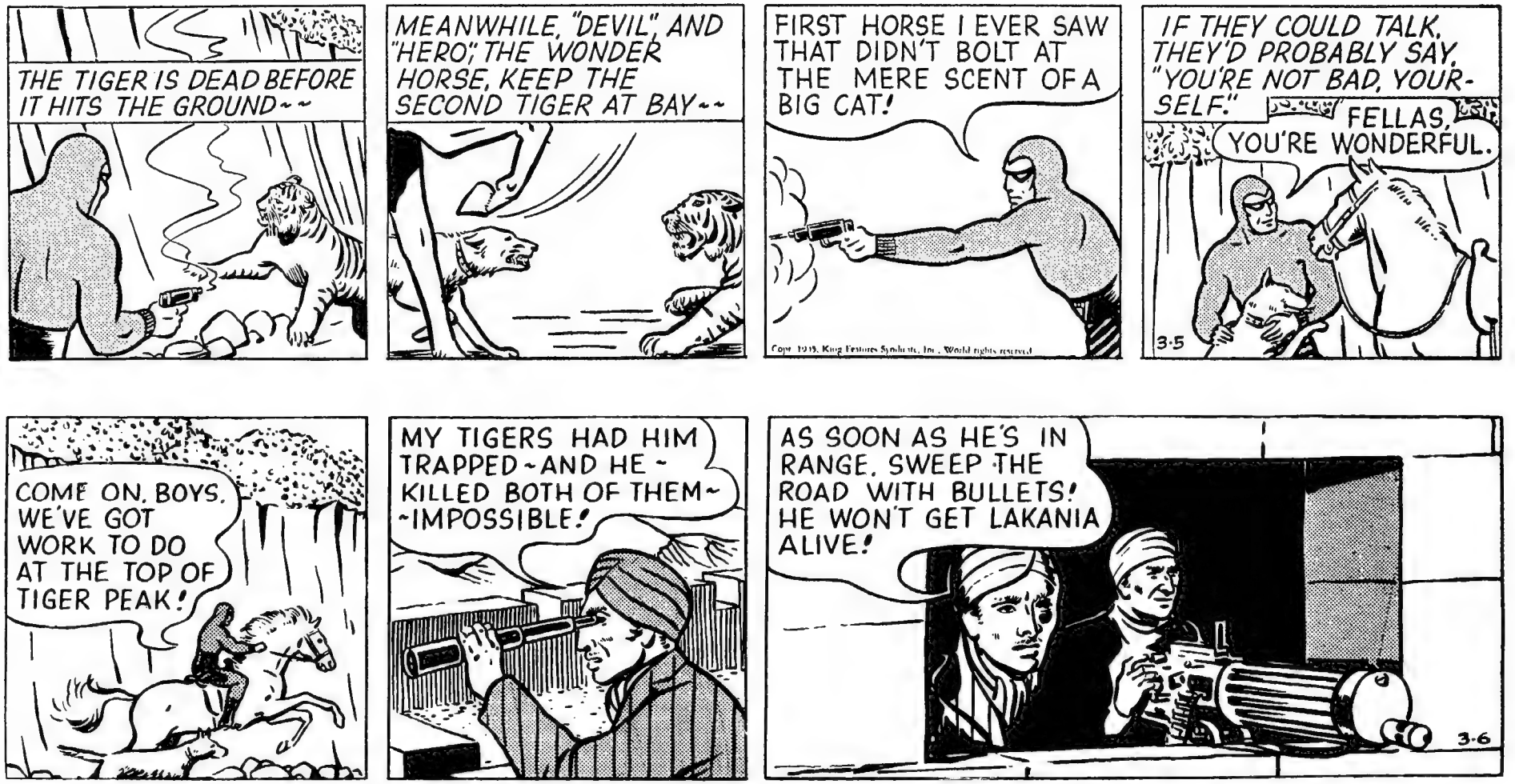
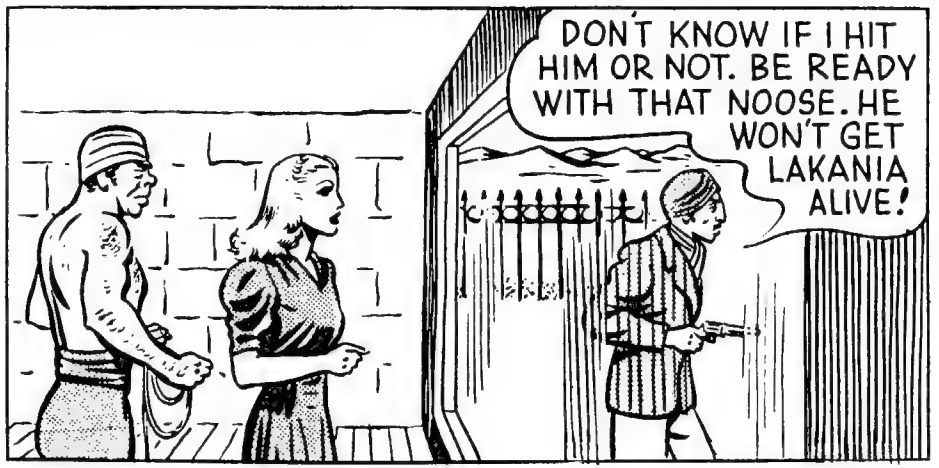
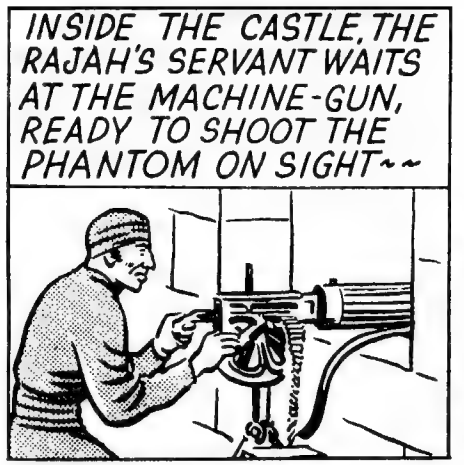

THE TIGER IS DEAD BEFORE IT HITS THE GROUND~~
MEANWHILE, "DEVIL", AND "HERO", THE WONDER HORSE, KEEP THE SECOND TIGER AT BAY~~
FIRST HORSE I EVER SAW THAT DIDN'T BOLT AT THE MERE SCENT OF A BIG CAT!
IF THEY COULD TALK, THEY'D PROBABLY SAY, "YOU'RE NOT BAD, YOURSELF."
FELLAS, YOU'RE WONDERFUL.
3-5
COME ON, BOYS, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO AT THE TOP OF TIGER PEAK!
MY TIGERS HAD HIM TRAPPED~AND HE~ KILLED BOTH OF THEM~ ~IMPOSSIBLE!
AS SOON AS HE'S IN RANGE, SWEEP THE ROAD WITH BULLETS! HE WON'T GET LAKANIA ALIVE!
3-6

3·7
TIGER PEAK WAITS TENSELY, NERVOUSLY ~~
HMM ~~ SEEMS WE'RE EXPECTED.
THERE HE IS!
HMM ~ "DEVIL", TAKE "HERO" BEHIND THAT BOULDER. THE RAJAH'S JUST LUCKY ENOUGH TO HIT SOME~ THING.
I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST OR THEY'LL KILL LAKANIA BEFORE I CAN REACH HER.
3·8


DON'T KNOW IF I HIT HIM OR NOT. BE READY WITH THAT NOOSE. HE WON'T GET LAKANIA ALIVE!

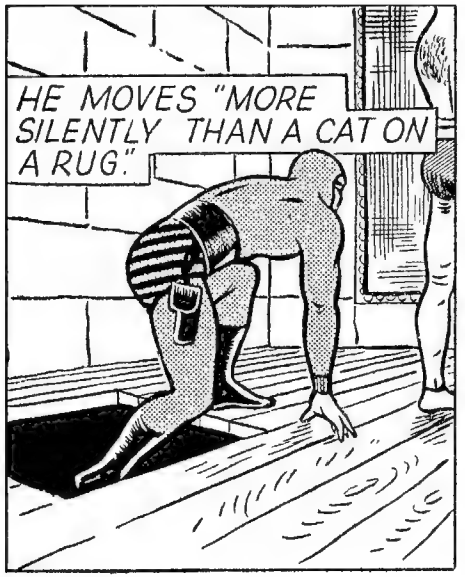

INSIDE THE CASTLE, THE RAJAH'S SERVANT WAITS AT THE MACHINE-GUN, READY TO SHOOT THE PHANTOM ON SIGHT~~

HE NEVER GETS THE CHANCE~JUNGLE PEOPLE SAY THE PHANTOM CAN MOVE MORE SILENTLY THAN A CAT ON A RUG~~
3-9

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK. JUST LISTEN. I'VE SEEN THAT THUGEE MOVE IN AND OUT OF THAT HUT-

~AND NEVER USES THE FRONT DOOR. THERE MUST BE A SECRET TUNNEL! LEAD ME TO IT.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
3-10


HE MOVES "MORE SILENTLY THAN A CAT ON A RUG."

HIS FIST LANDS LIKE A TRIPHAMMER~~
SHH~~

LOOKS LIKE THE PHANTOM RAN AWAY. MY SHOT SCARED HIM.
3-12
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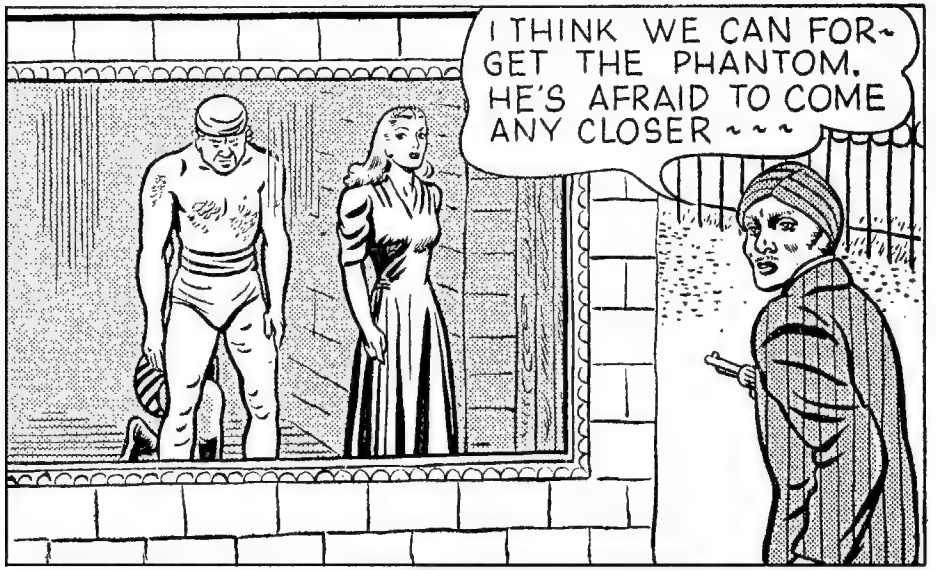
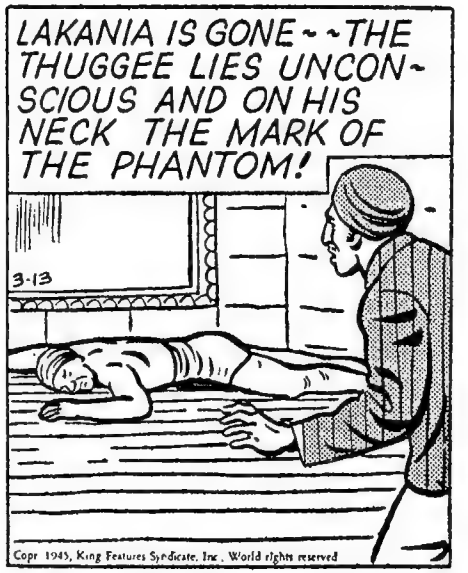

I THINK WE CAN FORGET THE PHANTOM. HE'S AFRAID TO COME ANY CLOSER~~~

AND NOW, LAKANIA~~ HUH~~


LAKANIA IS GONE~~THE THUGGEE LIES UNCONSCIOUS AND ON HIS NECK THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM!
3-13
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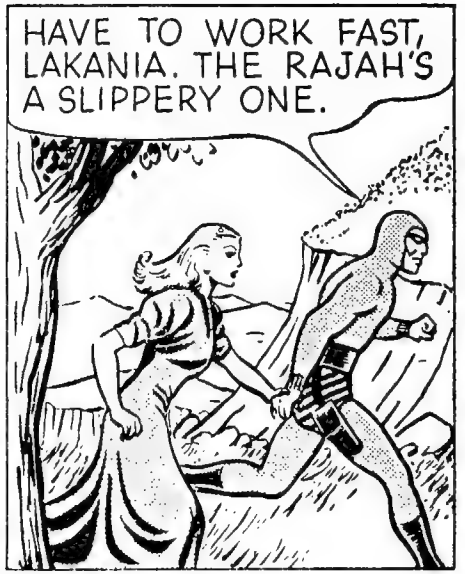
YOU WORK SO FAST, I CAN HARDLY KEEP UP WITH YOU.


HAVE TO WORK FAST, LAKANIA. THE RAJAH'S A SLIPPERY ONE.

STAY HERE WITH "DEVIL" AND HERO. THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.

WON'T YOU EVEN WAIT TO LET ME THANK YOU?
GOT TO GET THE RAJAH. YOU CAN THANK ME LATER.
3-14
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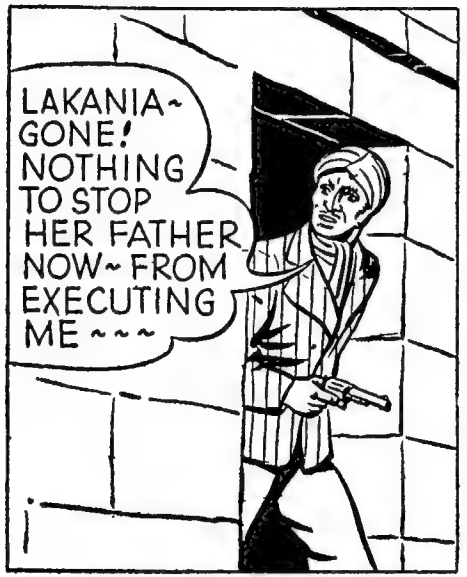
LAKANIA~ GONE! NOTHING TO STOP HER FATHER NOW~ FROM EXECUTING ME ~~~

UNLESS THE PHANTOM BEATS HIM TO IT!
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IF I CAN ONLY GET THIS CAR STARTED, BEFORE THAT PHANTOM REACHES ME~ WHER-EVER HE IS ~~

MADE IT! NOW HE'LL NEVER GET ME ~~
3-15

THE RAJAH DRIVES, AS IF PURSUED BY DEMONS.
THIS IS THE FASTEST CAR IN THE COUNTRY-- I'VE GOT ENOUGH GAS TO GET ACROSS THE BORDER --
EVEN THE PHANTOM CAN'T STOP ME NOW!
3-16
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
RAJAH SIMBAL, YOU'VE COME TO THE END OF YOUR ROPE.
I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO THE MAHARAJAH. I WON'T DEPRIVE HIM OF THE PLEASURE OF DECIDING YOUR FATE~
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THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY-- I'M FINISHED--
BUT--I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME!
3-17
CONT'D

TRAPPED BY THE PHANTOM, RAJAH SIMBAL DRIVES OVER A HIGH CLIFF~~
THE PHANTOM LEAPS FROM THE DEATH CAR-
HOLD, LITTLE BUSH, OR I'M A DEAD DUCK.
3-19
RAJAH SIMBAL'S CAR DOES A POWER DIVE INTO THE DEEP CHASM~~
THE PHANTOM WORKS CAREFULLY BACK TO THE CLIFF'S EDGE~~
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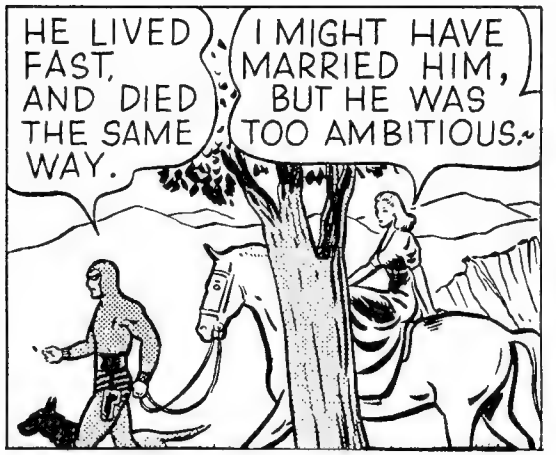
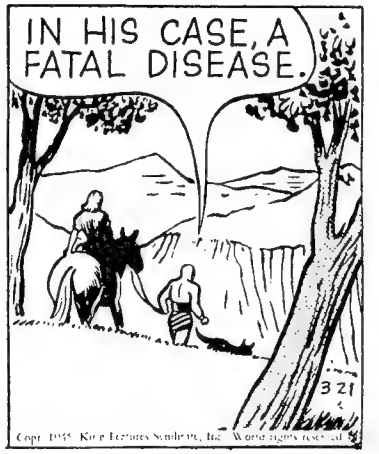
YOU CHEATED ALL YOUR LIFE, RAJAH SIMBAL, AND YOU WOUND UP CHEATING THE HANGMAN.
3-20

RAJAH SIMBAL WON'T TROUBLE YOU ANY MORE, PRINCESS LAKANIA.
DID YOU~~?

NO, HE FINISHED HIMSELF.
I HATED HIM ~ BUT I HOPE HE DIDN'T SUFFER~


HE LIVED FAST, AND DIED THE SAME WAY.
I MIGHT HAVE MARRIED HIM, BUT HE WAS TOO AMBITIOUS.~


IN HIS CASE, A FATAL DISEASE.
3-21

LAKANIA!
DADDY!
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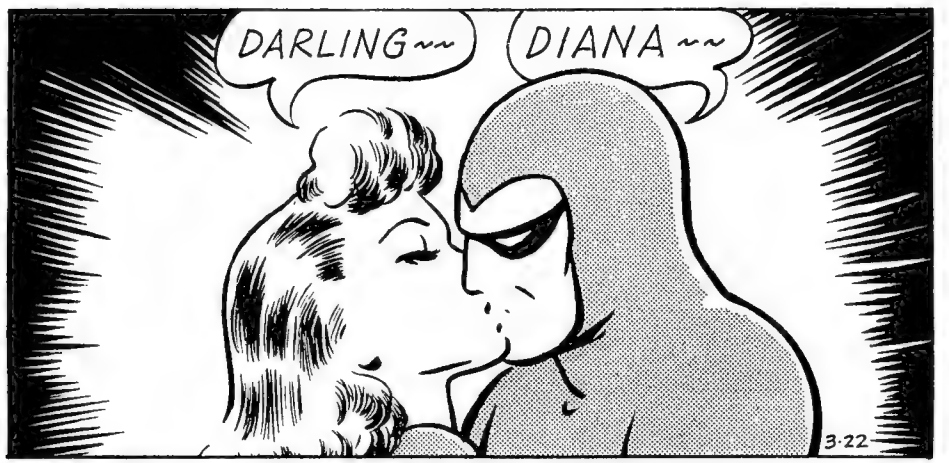
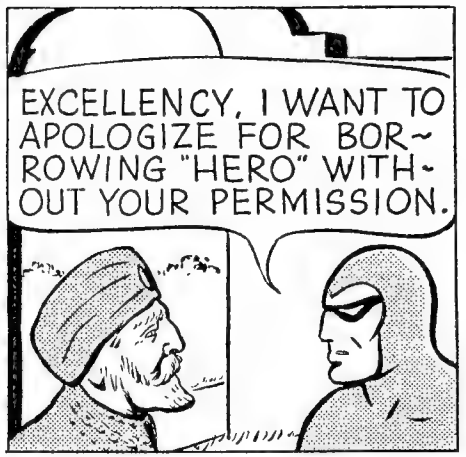
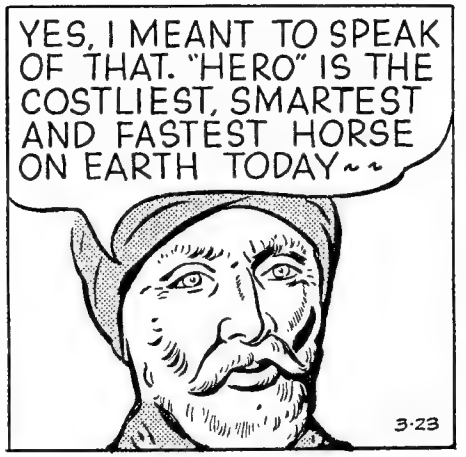
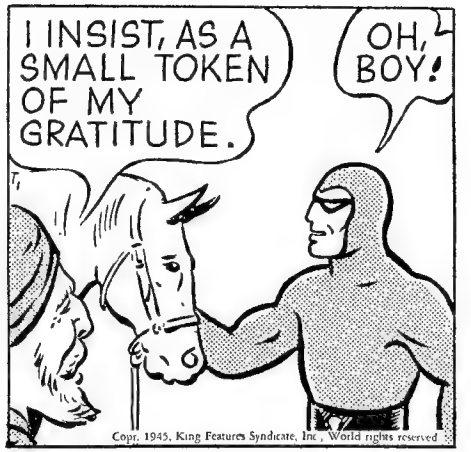
SIR, I CAN NEVER THANK YOU~~
PARDON ME, EXCELLENCY, I HAVE ONE MORE BIT OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS~~


DARLING~~
DIANA~~
3-22


EXCELLENCY, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR BOR~ ROWING "HERO" WITH~ OUT YOUR PERMISSION.


YES, I MEANT TO SPEAK OF THAT. "HERO" IS THE COSTLIEST, SMARTEST AND FASTEST HORSE ON EARTH TODAY~~
3·23

AND HE IS ALL YOURS.
"HERO"! NO, EXCELLENCY, I CAN'T ACCEPT~


I INSIST, AS A SMALL TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE.
OH, BOY!
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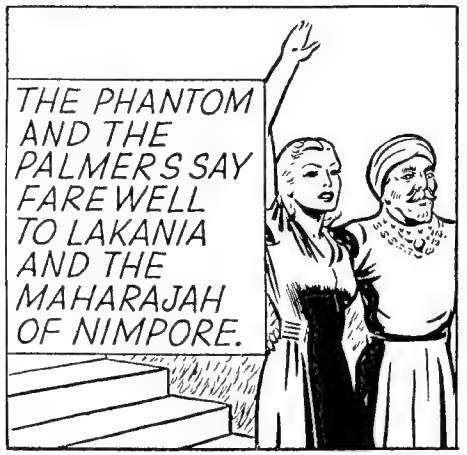
THE PHANTOM AND THE PALMERS SAY FAREWELL TO LAKANIA AND THE MAHARAJAH OF NIMPORE.

I'M ALMOST SORRY TO LEAVE THEM.
JUST AS WELL FOR YOU, DIANA. I THINK LAKANIA HAD HER EYE ON HIM~
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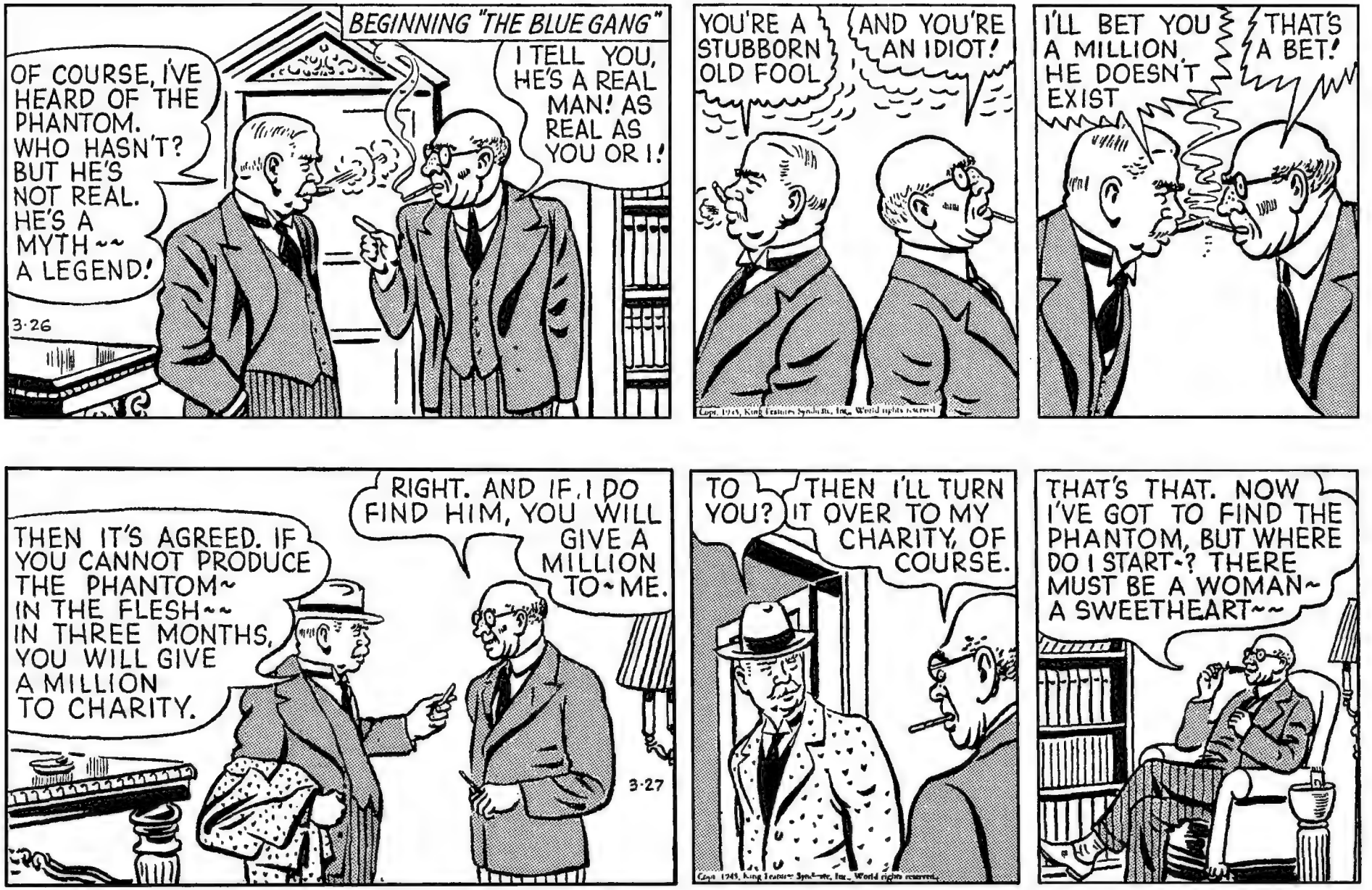
AND, AFTER ALL, SHE IS THE MAHARAJAH'S DAUGHTER.
BUT, MAMA, DIANA IS YOUR DAUGHTER.

HE CAN BE SO NICE, WHEN HE WANTS TO
3·24

DIANA ~ IN NIMPORE! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, "DEVIL"? LET'S GO!
NIMPORE, DIANA
12·15

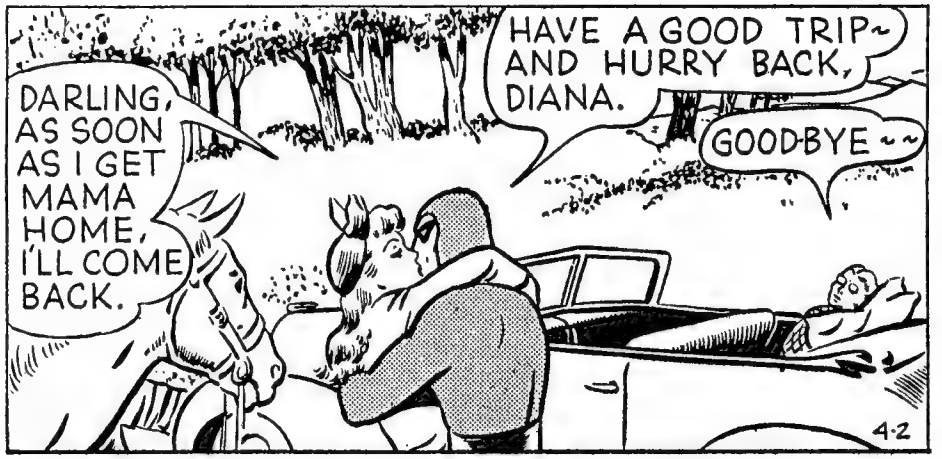
Chapter Two: The Blue Gang

the PHANTOM®


BEGINNING "THE BLUE GANG"
OF COURSE, I'VE HEARD OF THE PHANTOM. WHO HASN'T? BUT HE'S NOT REAL. HE'S A MYTH~~ A LEGEND!
I TELL YOU, HE'S A REAL MAN! AS REAL AS YOU OR I!
3-26
YOU'RE A STUBBORN OLD FOOL
AND YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
I'LL BET YOU A MILLION, HE DOESN'T EXIST
THAT'S A BET!
THEN IT'S AGREED. IF YOU CANNOT PRODUCE THE PHANTOM~ IN THE FLESH~~ IN THREE MONTHS, YOU WILL GIVE A MILLION TO CHARITY.
RIGHT. AND IF I DO FIND HIM, YOU WILL GIVE A MILLION TO~ME.
3-27
TO YOU?
THEN I'LL TURN IT OVER TO MY CHARITY, OF COURSE.
THAT'S THAT. NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND THE PHANTOM, BUT WHERE DO I START~? THERE MUST BE A WOMAN~ A SWEETHEART~~

I'M CONVINCED THAT THE MASKED HERO OF THE OOLAN, WHO FOUGHT THE JAPS IN BENGALI A YEAR AGO, WAS THE PHANTOM!
MASKED HERO OF OOLAN TO VISIT U.S.
HEROIC JUNGLE LEADER TO SEE SWEETHEART
DIANA PALMER
THAT WAS OVER A YEAR AGO. THE MASKED HERO DISAPPEARED, BUT I'M SURE HE SAW DIANA PALMER.
3-28
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
NOW, IF I CAN FIND HER, I'LL FIND HIM~ AND A MILLION DOLLARS~ FOR MY FAVORITE CHARITY~ WHICH IS ME.
TRIGGER, I WANT YOU TO FIND THIS GIRL, DIANA PALMER.
3-29
ISN'T KIDNAPPING OUT OF YOUR LINE, BOSS?
THIS ISN'T KIDNAPPING EXACTLY. FIND HER~~
~AND YOU'LL FIND THE PHANTOM. THAT'S WHO I WANT.
PHANTOM? WHY THERE AIN'T NO SUCH ANIMAL, BOSS.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
SOMEBODY ELSE SAID THAT, AND IT'S GOING TO COST HIM A MILLION! ON YOUR HORSE, TRIGGER.
YES, SIR.

WE GOTTA NAB A DAME, SO WE CAN FIND A PHANTOM? THAT SOUNDS CRAZY, TRIGGER.
SURE, THERE AIN'T NO PHANTOM, BUT WE'RE KINDA HOT AROUND HERE, AND A VACATION WILL DO US GOOD. BESIDES, THE BOSS IS PAYING US PLENTY.
3-30
FER THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, SUPPOSE THERE IS A GUY CALLED THE PHANTOM. DOES THE BOSS WANT HIM DEAD OR ALIVE?
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THE BOSS DIDN'T SAY.
I'M SORRY TO BE SUCH A NUISANCE, DIANA
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT, MAMA. YOU CAN'T HELP IT, IF YOU'RE ILL. YOU NEVER GOT OVER THAT GAS-ROOM.
3-31
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WE HAVE RETURN TICKETS ON THE BOAT. I'D BETTER GET MAMA HOME, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
OF COURSE
SURE THIS PALMER DAME'S GOIN' ON THIS TUB?
YEP. HER AND HER MAW.
CONT'D


DARLING, AS SOON AS I GET MAMA HOME, I'LL COME BACK.
HAVE A GOOD TRIP~ AND HURRY BACK, DIANA.
GOOD-BYE ~~
4-2

HER?
HER.
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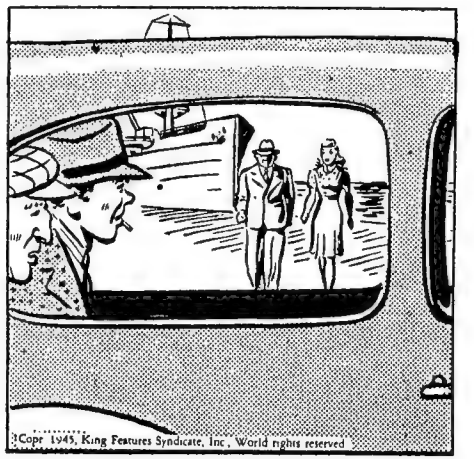
COMFY?
FINE. SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR, DEAR.
4-3

MAN WANTS TO SEE YOU ON THE DOCK, MISS PALMER. DIDN'T GIVE HIS NAME.

MUST BE HIM~ I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, MAMA
DON'T MISS THE BOAT, DIANA.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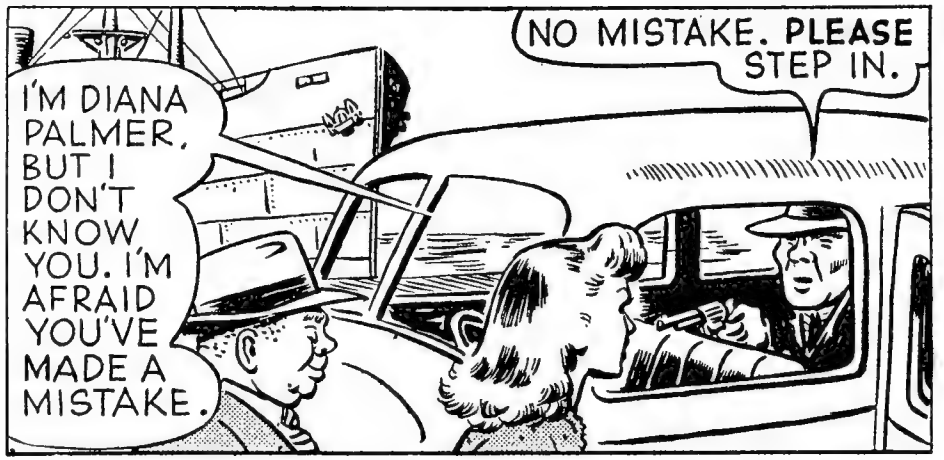
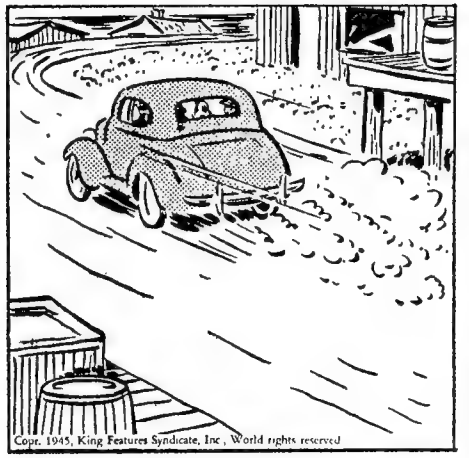

NO MISTAKE. PLEASE STEP IN.
I'M DIANA PALMER, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU. I'M AFRAID YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE.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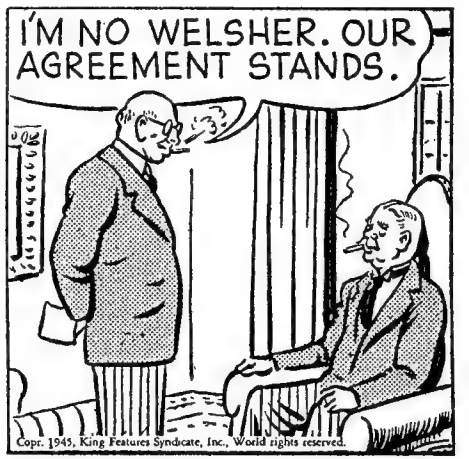
THERE SHE GOES, FELLAS. HURRY BACK, DIANA.
4-4

BUT I'VE SEARCHED EVERY-WHERE, MRS. PALMER
MY DAUGHTER MUST BE ON THIS SHIP!

MEANWHILE, AN OCEAN AWAY--
ADMIT YOU'RE WRONG-THAT THERE IS NO PHANTOM AND I'LL CALL OFF OUR WAGER.
MES-SAGE SIR.

We've got the girl. Now what?
Trigger
4-5


I'M NO WELSHER. OUR AGREEMENT STANDS.
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IN A DESERTED MANSION ON THE COAST NEAR MORRISTOWN~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WILL YOU TELL ME WHO IS KEEPING ME PRISONER HERE~AND WHY?
I JUST WORK HERE, LADY.
NOW WHAT, TRIGGER?
BOSS SAYS WE SHOULD LET HER GET A MESSAGE OUT TO THE PHANTOM!
AN' WHEN THIS SPOOK WALKS THRU THE WALL TO RESCUE HER, WE GOTTA NAB HIM! WOW~ I THINK THE BOSS IS GOIN' HAYWIRE!
4-6
GOT THE DEAL, FATSO?
WELL~I'M SUPPOSED TO LET HER BRIBE ME?
YEAH, ACT LIKE WE'RE MISTREATIN' YOU. IF SHE WANTS YOU TO SMUGGLE OUT A MESSAGE, THEN YOU AGREE, SEE?
BUT DIANA HAS PLANS OF HER OWN~~
MISS PALMER~?
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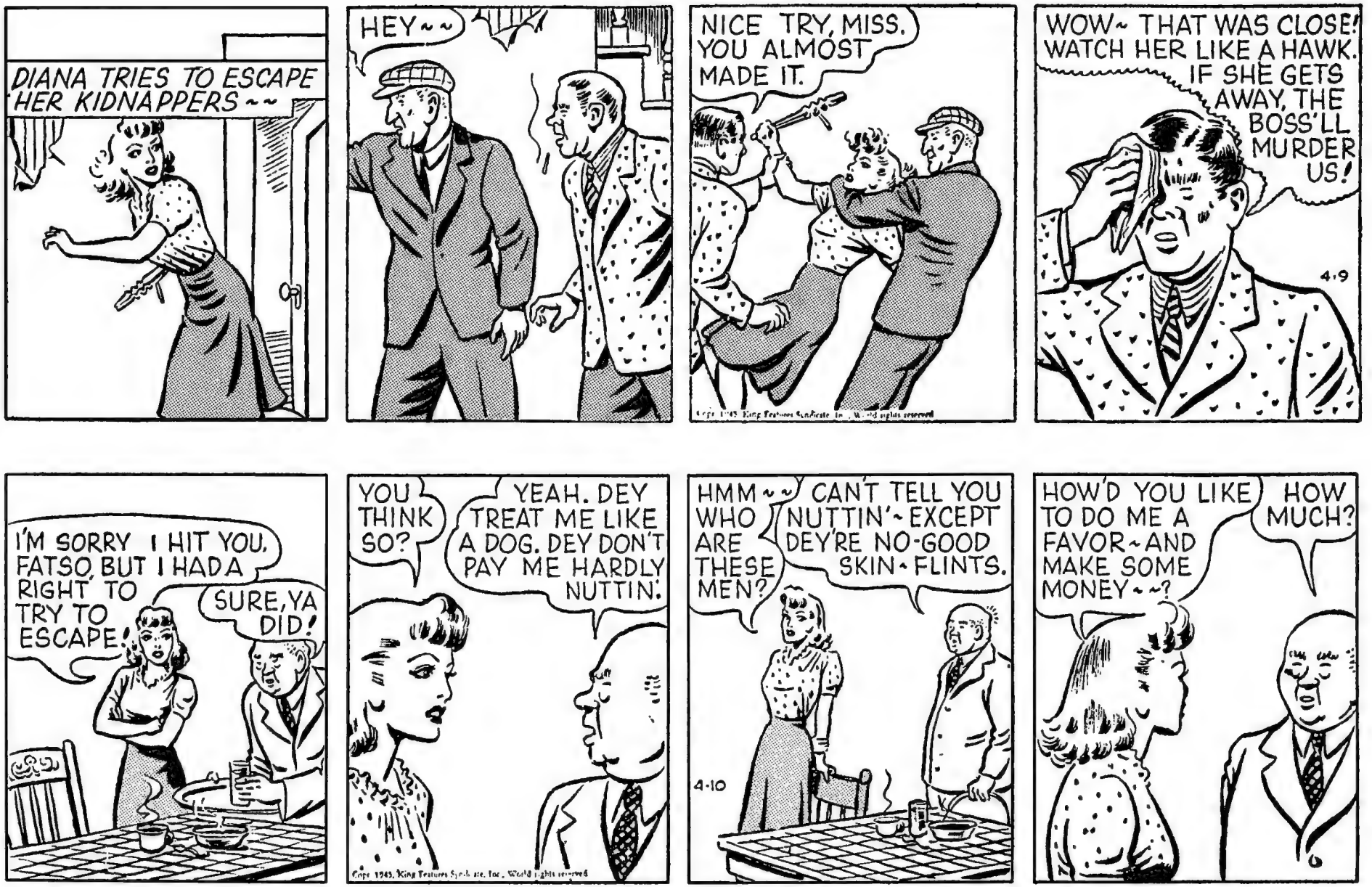
4-7


DIANA TRIES TO ESCAPE HER KIDNAPPERS ~~
HEY~~
NICE TRY, MISS. YOU ALMOST MADE IT.
WOW~ THAT WAS CLOSE! WATCH HER LIKE A HAWK. IF SHE GETS AWAY, THE BOSS'LL MURDER US!
4-9
I'M SORRY I HIT YOU, FATSO, BUT I HAD A RIGHT TO TRY TO ESCAPE!
SURE, YA DID!
YOU THINK SO?
YEAH. DEY TREAT ME LIKE A DOG. DEY DON'T PAY ME HARDLY NUTTIN'.
HMM~~ WHO ARE THESE MEN?
CAN'T TELL YOU NUTTIN'~ EXCEPT DEY'RE NO-GOOD SKIN-FLINTS.
4-10
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO DO ME A FAVOR~ AND MAKE SOME MONEY~~?
HOW MUCH?

MAIL THIS LETTER FOR ME~
I DONT KNOW~ I'M TAKIN'AN AWFUL CHANCE~
HERE'S FIFTY DOLLARS ~~ ALL I HAVE. CAN I TRUST YOU?
I'LL DO IT! THEM GUYS NEVER DID NUTTIN' FOR ME!
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HE'LL GET THE NOTE~ HE'LL HAVE ME OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME! WHAT LUCK!
4-11
IT WORKED! HERE'S THE LETTER SHE WRUT!
GOOD WORK, FATSO! LET'S SEE IT!
Darling, I'm held prisoner in an old house two miles from town, called Cliffside house. Three men here. Careful. Diana
HECK, IT'S JUST WRIT TO MR. WALKER.
EXPECT HER TO WRITE TO A PHANTOM? THAT'S JUST THE BOSS'S CRAZY IDEA.
BUT-THIS WALKER'LL COME HERE WITH COPS, TRIGGER!
YEAH. WE'LL SEND HIM A DIFFERENT NOTE
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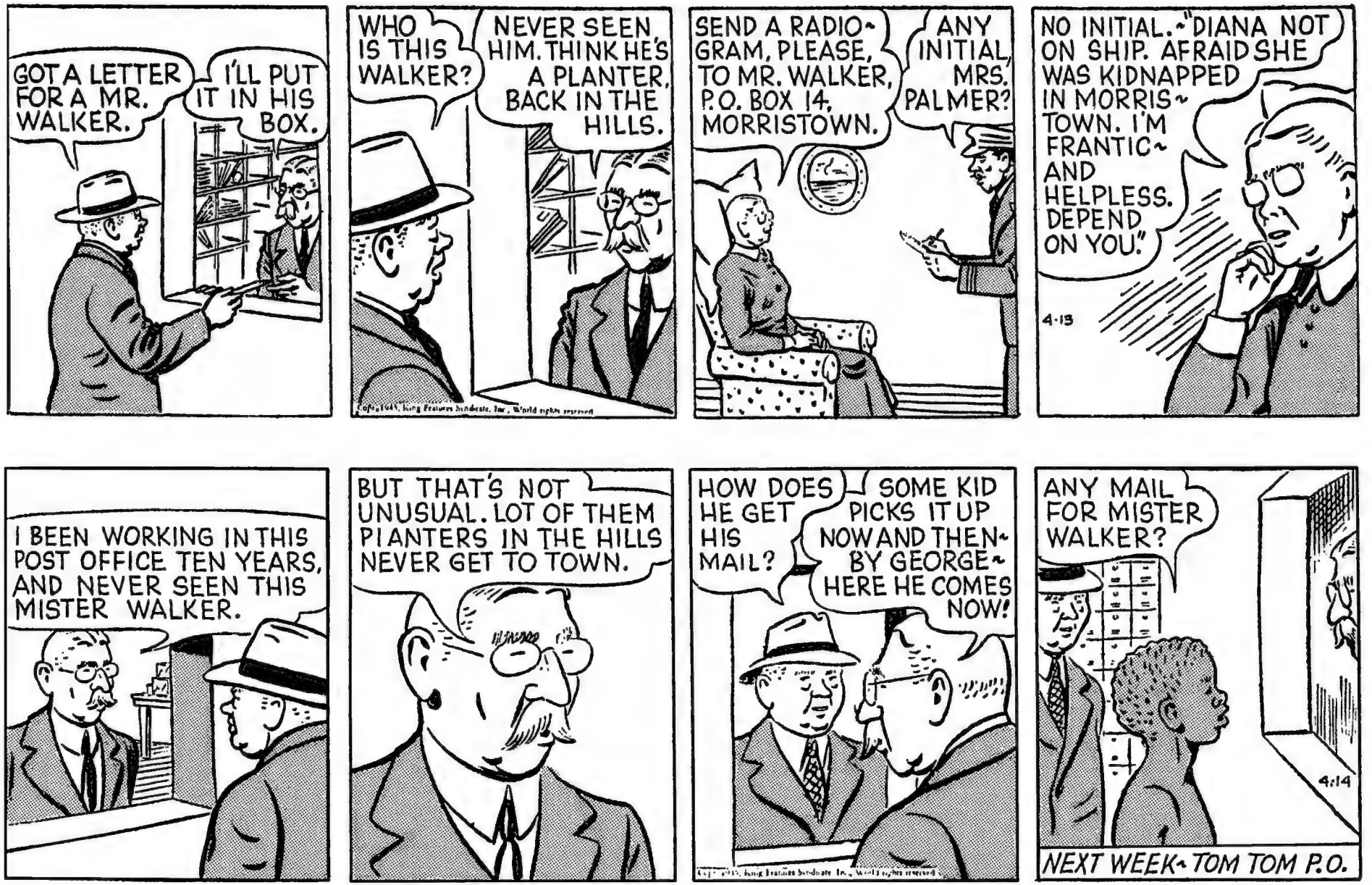
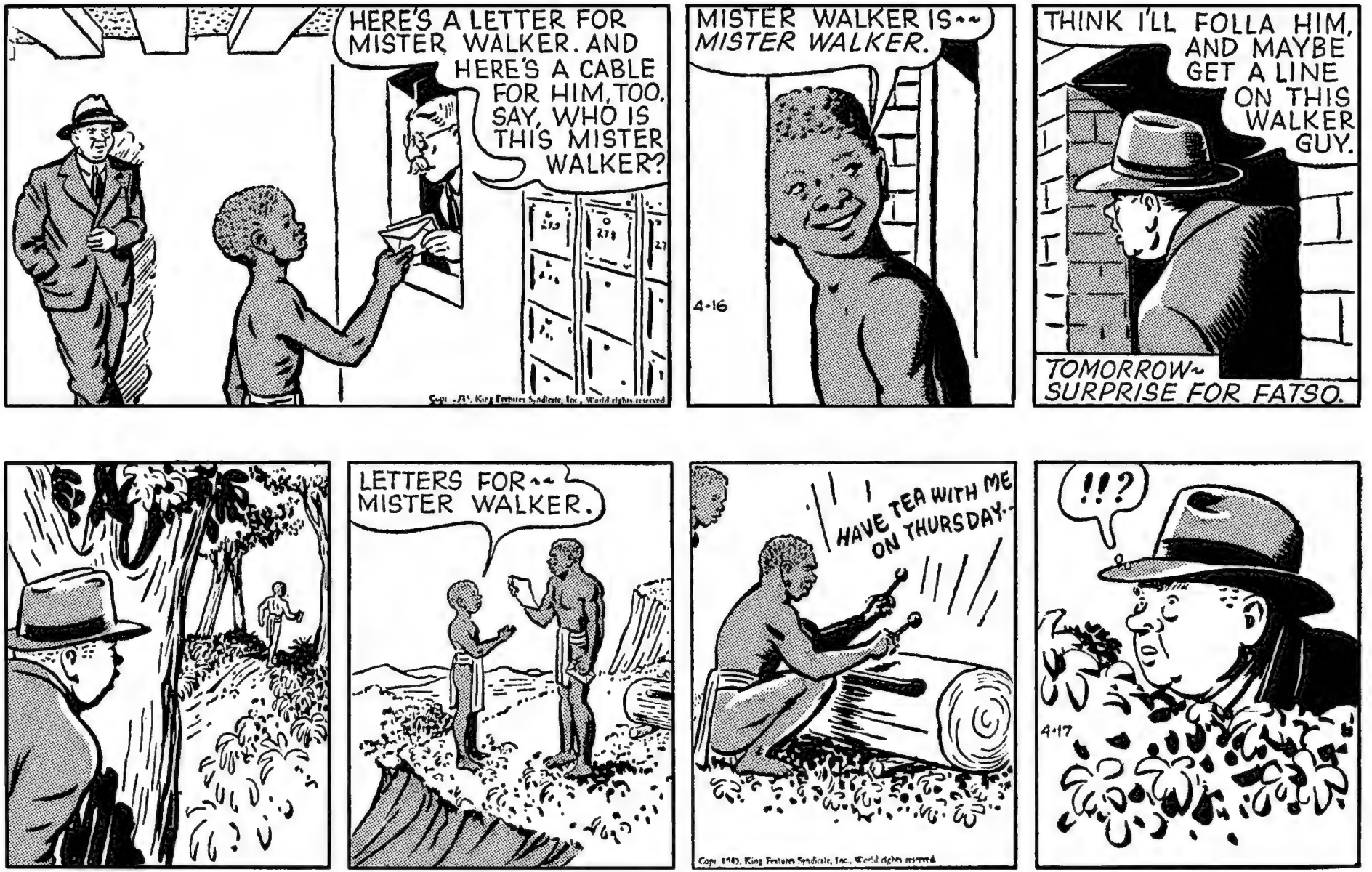
"WITH FRIENDS AT CLIFFSIDE HOUSE, PLEASE HAVE TEA WITH US THURSDAY." HOW'S THAT?
4-12


GOT A LETTER FOR A MR. WALKER.
I'LL PUT IT IN HIS BOX.
WHO IS THIS WALKER?
NEVER SEEN HIM. THINK HE'S A PLANTER, BACK IN THE HILLS.
SEND A RADIO-GRAM, PLEASE, TO MR. WALKER, P.O. BOX 14, MORRISTOWN.
ANY INITIAL, MRS. PALMER?
NO INITIAL.-"DIANA NOT ON SHIP. AFRAID SHE WAS KIDNAPPED IN MORRIS-TOWN. I'M FRANTIC-AND HELPLESS. DEPEND ON YOU."
4-13
I BEEN WORKING IN THIS POST OFFICE TEN YEARS, AND NEVER SEEN THIS MISTER WALKER.
BUT THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL. LOT OF THEM PLANTERS IN THE HILLS NEVER GET TO TOWN.
HOW DOES HE GET HIS MAIL?
SOME KID PICKS IT UP NOW AND THEN-BY GEORGE-HERE HE COMES NOW!
ANY MAIL FOR MISTER WALKER?
4-14
NEXT WEEK-TOM TOM P.O.


HERE'S A LETTER FOR MISTER WALKER. AND HERE'S A CABLE FOR HIM, TOO. SAY, WHO IS THIS MISTER WALKER?
MISTER WALKER IS-- MISTER WALKER.
4-16
THINK I'LL FOLLA HIM, AND MAYBE GET A LINE ON THIS WALKER GUY.
TOMORROW~ SURPRISE FOR FATSO.
LETTERS FOR-- MISTER WALKER.
I HAVE TEA WITH ME ON THURSDAY--
!!?
4-17

FATSO WATCHES THE MESSAGE GO OUT ON THE TOM-TOM TO THE MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER. HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE TOM-TOM BEATS~~
AFRAID DIANA KIDNAPPED
4-18
BUT FAR AWAY, HE CAN HEAR ANOTHER TOM-TOM PICK UP THE BEATS AND RELAY THEM ON~~
PLEASE HAVE TEA WITH ME ON THURSDAY~~~
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I'M GETTIN' OUTA HERE! THIS IS SPOOKY!
MESSAGE COMING IN ON TOM-TOM.
LET'S LISTEN.
MISSED BOAT. VISITING FRIENDS AT CLIFFSIDE HOUSE. PLEASE HAVE TEA WITH ME THURSDAY. DIANA.
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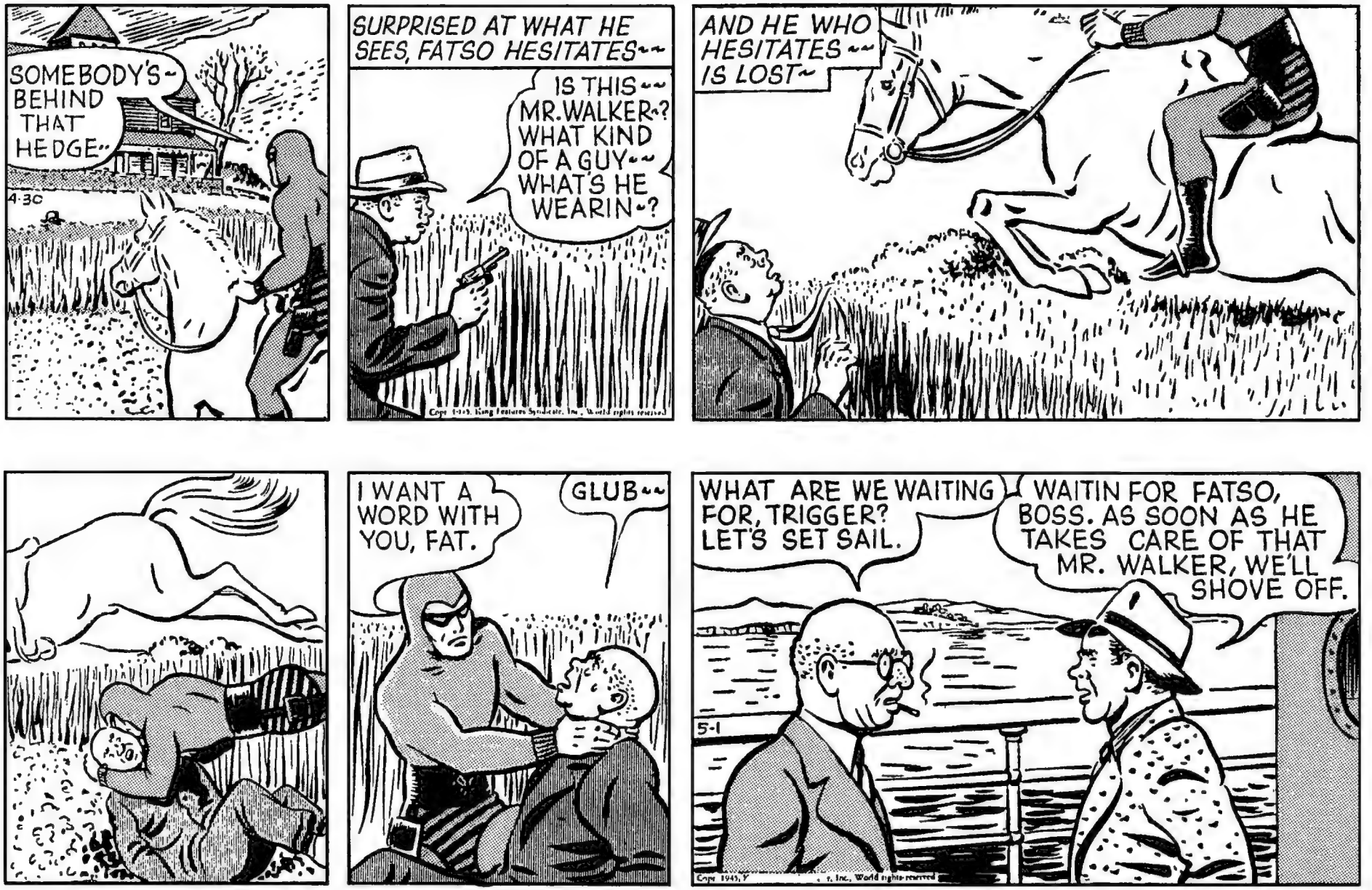
WHAT'S THAT? SHE GOT ON THE BOAT WITH HER MOTHER!
SHH~~ ANOTHER MESSAGE.
AFRAID DIANA KIDNAPPED. DEPEND ON YOU. MRS. PALMER
4-19

PUFF~~ IT'S ME~ FATSO~ LEMME IN~~
~AND THEN THIS KID GIVES THE LETTER TO THIS OTHER NATIVE, AND HE BEATS IT OUT ON THE DRUM
WHAT GOT YOU SO SCARED? LOT OF THEM PLANTERS ARE QUEER DUCKS. THAT'S A QUICK WAY OF GETTIN' YOUR MAIL.
YEAH~ BUT IT WAS KINDA SPOOKY~ THE WAY ONE DRUM AFTER THE OTHER PICKED IT UP~ MILE AFTER MILE~ BOOM~BOOM~BOOM~
4-20
THAT'S OUR SHIP, ALRIGHT. BOSS AIN'T SPARED NO EXPENSE, HAS HE?
NOPE. GET THE GIRL ON IT.
WHEN HER PAL, MISTER WALKER, SHOWS UP FOR "TEA," HE WON'T FIND NOBODY HERE BUT US!
4-21
WHO KIDNAPPED DIANA? WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!
CONT'D.

~~AND DIANA SENT THE MESSAGE TO A GUY NAMED WALKER, A PLANTER, SO THERE AIN'T NO PHANTOM, BOSS.
I UNDERSTAND, TRIGGER. VERY WELL. CARRY ON.
NO PHANTOM. I WAS WRONG. WELL, I CAN'T LET A MILLION DOLLARS SLIP AWAY JUST BECAUSE OF THAT~~
ADMIT YOU WERE WRONG, CAL?
NONSENSE. PUT ON YOUR HAT. I'M TAKING YOU TO SEE THE PHANTOM~NOW!
4-23
WAIT AROUND UNTIL THIS WALKER SHOWS UP, FATSO, THEN~~ TAKE CARE OF HIM~~ AND COME TO THE SHIP
NOW WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
WHAT YOU NEED'S A LITTLE SEA AIR.
AM I BEING HELD FOR RANSOM?
NOPE.
THEN~~ WHY~~?
WHAT YA DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT YA~~~
4-24

DIANA'S HELD PRISONER ON THE OLD FREIGHTER.
A PLANE~~
4-25
PURE NONSENSE, MAKING THIS LONG TRIP. NOW, WHERE IS THIS PHANTOM?
DON'T BE IMPATIENT, JOHN. THE PHANTOM'LL BE HERE SHORTLY.
BUT, BOSS, THERE AIN'T NO PHANTOM, LIKE I TOLD YOU
YES, I KNOW, TRIGGER.
YOU SEE, TRIGGER, I MADE ONE OF MY RARE MISTAKES. I WAS POSITIVE THE PHANTOM EXISTED. I WAS WRONG.
"JOHN, IN THERE, IS VERY WEALTHY. HE WAS TO GIVE ME A MILLION, IF I PRODUCED THE PHANTOM."
4-26
I STILL NEED THAT MILLION BADLY~~ SO I'VE DECIDED TO HOLD JOHN FOR RANSOM.~~FOR A MILLION DOLLARS.
ONE ANGLE DON'T WORK, SO YOU FIGURE OUT ANOTHER. CHEE, BOSS, YOU'RE SURE QUICK ON YOUR FEET!

I'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS SHIP~~ SOMEHOW~~
4-27
WHOA, JOHN~ DON'T GO HURTING YOUR~ SELF. YOU'RE OUR MEAL TICKET.
SO, YOU'RE HOLDING ME FOR RANSOM~~! YOU~~MY OLD FRIEND~~
AND THIS PHANTOM BUSINESS WAS JUST A TRICK TO GET ME HERE!
NO, THAT WAS A MISTAKE, ONE OF MY RARE ONES.
GETTIN' DARK~~ THIS WALKER GUY OUGHT TO BE HERE SOON~~
HMM~~SOMEBODY COMIN' ON A HORSE THAT MUST BE HIM!
THAT MUST BE THE HOUSE~WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING DIANA
4-28
I'LL POP HIM OFF THAT NAG SO FAST HE WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!
CONT'D.

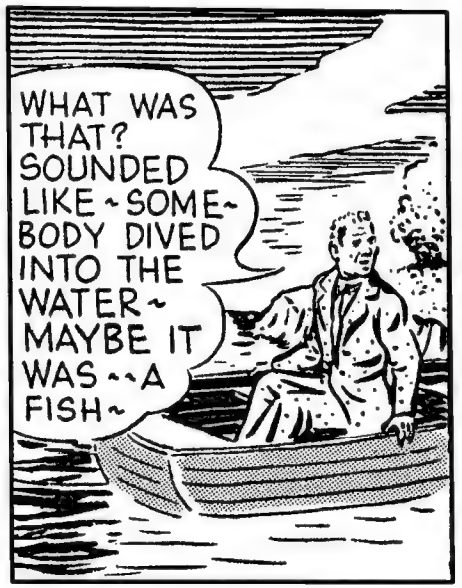

SOMEBODY'S BEHIND THAT HEDGE..
4-30
SURPRISED AT WHAT HE SEES, FATSO HESITATES...
IS THIS... MR. WALKER...? WHAT KIND OF A GUY... WHAT'S HE WEARIN...?
AND HE WHO HESITATES... IS LOST...
I WANT A WORD WITH YOU, FAT.
GLUB...
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, TRIGGER? LET'S SET SAIL.
WAITIN FOR FATSO, BOSS. AS SOON AS HE TAKES CARE OF THAT MR. WALKER, WE'LL SHOVE OFF.
5-1

I'LL TALK.~~ ONLY DON'T GRAB ME~ AGAIN~~
TALK FAST!
WE'RE ~THE BLUE GANG ~THEY GOT THE GIRL ON THAT SHIP~~
BLUE GANG! SMUGGLERS!
5-2
WE CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER, TRIGGER! COAST GUARD CUTTERS ARE THICK IN THESE WATERS!
I'LL GO SEE WHAT'S HOLDING UP FATSO. MAYBE HE NEEDS HELP.
GUESS WALKER HASN'T SHOWN UP YET, OR FATSO'D BE WAITING HERE FOR ME.
FATSO~ FATSO~!
5-3
FATSO~
KNOCKED COLD! WHAT'S THAT ON HIS JAW~~? A SKULL MARK~~!

SKULL MARK~ PHANTOM~~

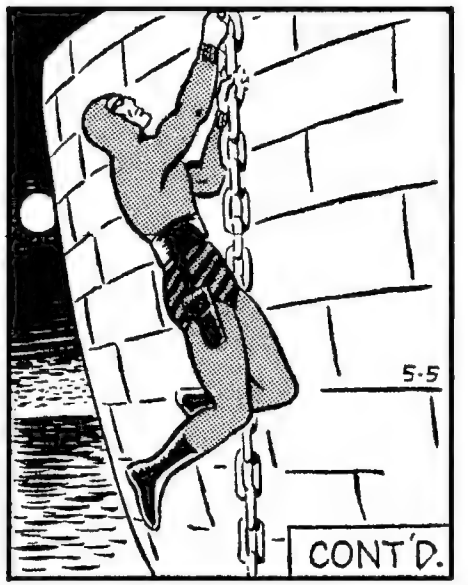
THERE IS A PHANTOM! HE'S ~HERE~ SOME~ WHERE~

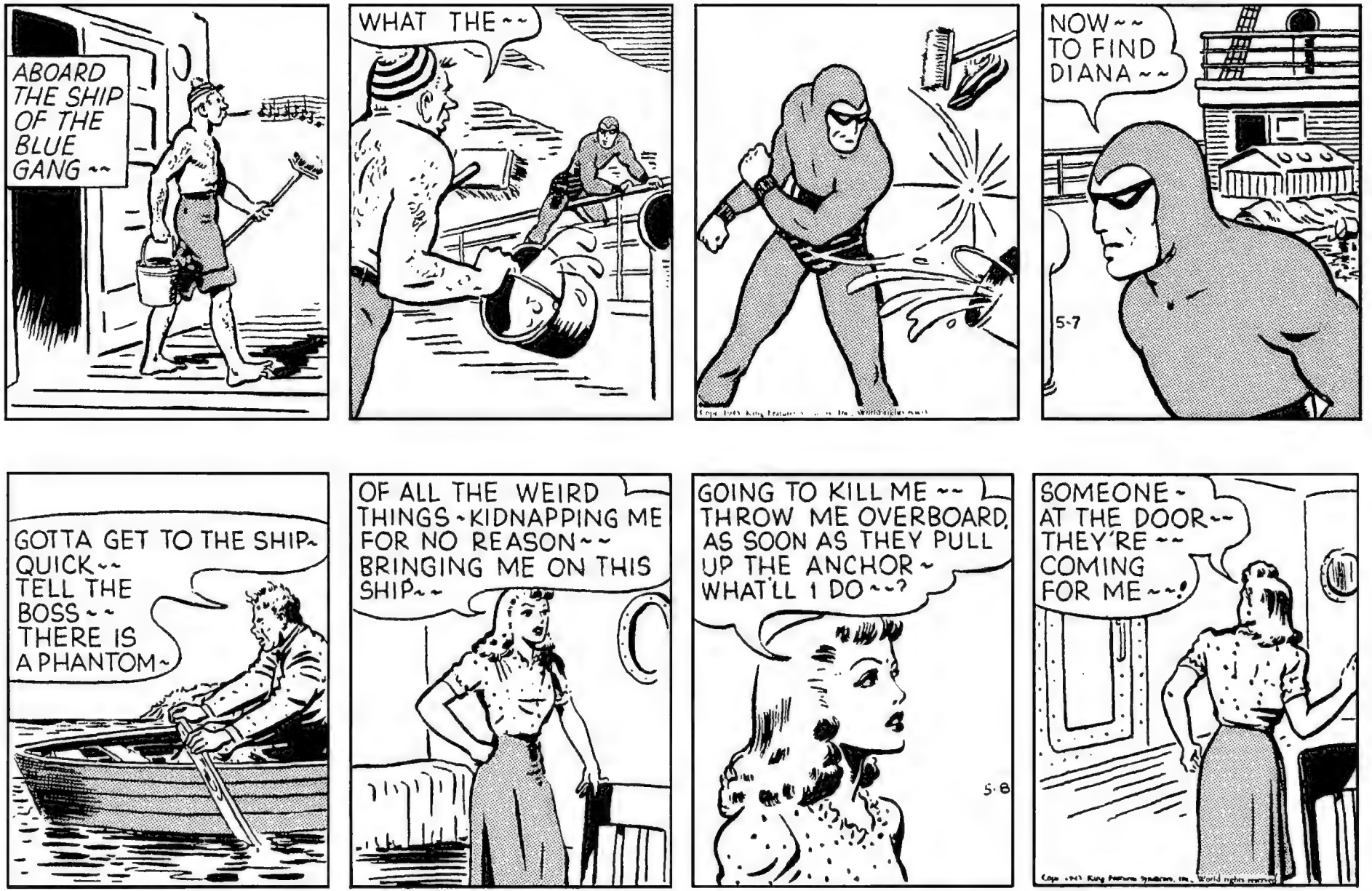
GOTTA GET BACK~TO SHIP~~QUICK~HEY~ NO OARS!
5-4


WHAT WAS THAT? SOUNDED LIKE ~SOME~ BODY DIVED INTO THE WATER~ MAYBE IT WAS ~~A FISH~

SO YOU'RE THE GIRL~ PRETTY~~

NO USE FOR HER NOW. AS SOON AS WE PULL ANCHOR, DISPOSE OF HER.


5-5
CONT'D.


ABOARD THE SHIP OF THE BLUE GANG ~~
WHAT THE ~~
NOW ~~ TO FIND DIANA ~~
5-7
GOTTA GET TO THE SHIP~ QUICK ~~ TELL THE BOSS ~~ THERE IS A PHANTOM~
OF ALL THE WEIRD THINGS ~ KIDNAPPING ME FOR NO REASON ~~ BRINGING ME ON THIS SHIP~~
GOING TO KILL ME ~~ THROW ME OVERBOARD, AS SOON AS THEY PULL UP THE ANCHOR ~ WHAT'LL I DO ~~?
5-8
SOMEONE ~ AT THE DOOR ~~ THEY'RE ~~ COMING FOR ME ~~!

COMING FOR ME -- BROKE THE LOCK -- THEY'RE GOING TO - KILL ME --
DIANA!
OH -- DARLING! -- YOU FOUND ME - I THOUGHT IT WAS - - THEY --
59
BOSS -- BOSS --
WHAT KEPT YOU, TRIGGER? WHERE'S FATSO?
BOSS, IT'S TRUE -- FATSO'S UNCONSCIOUS - SKULL MARK ON JAW -- SKULL MARK!
510
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU WERE RIGHT - HE'S AFTER US!
WHO IS?
THE - PHANTOM!
TOMORROW -- THAT THING AGAIN.

THEN--THERE IS A PHANTOM, AFTER ALL!

THE GIRL! I'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HER-- IF I HAVE TO WRING IT OUT!
5-11

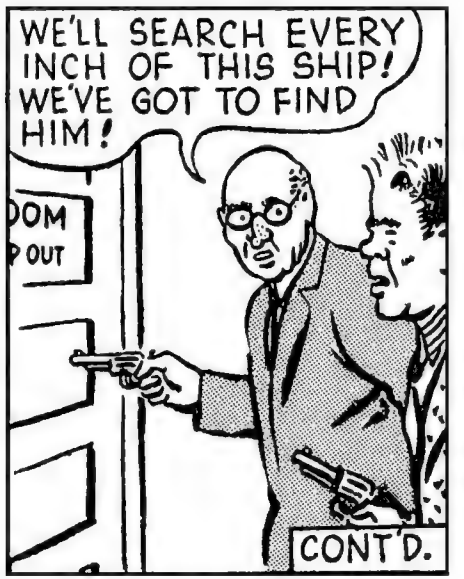
DOOR-- OPEN--
SHE'S-- GONE--

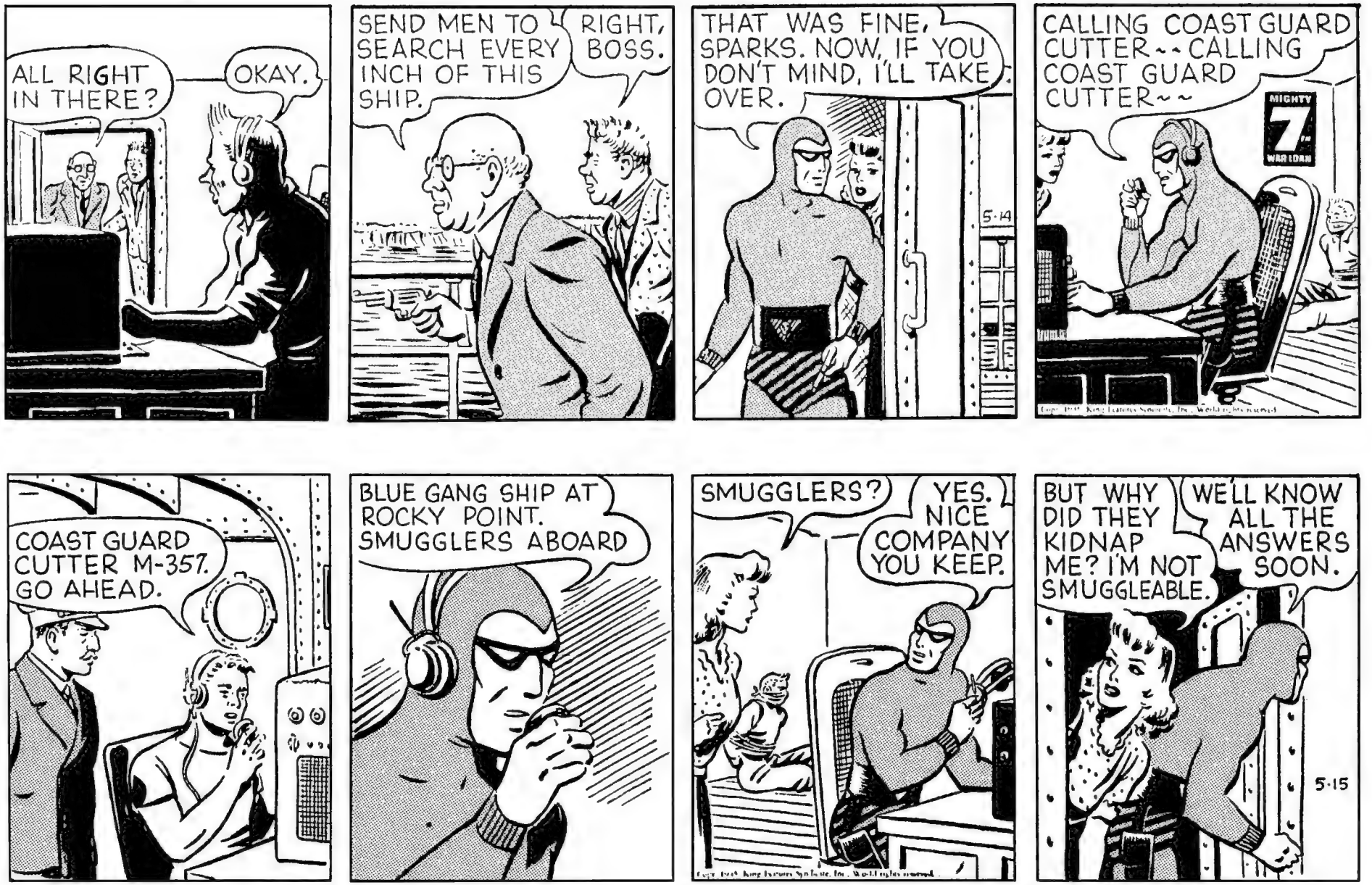
SKULL MARK! IS THAT--?
HIS SIGN! HE'S ON THIS SHIP!

WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
LATER--

RADIO RO
KEEP OUT

I WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE.
HUH?
5-12


WE'LL SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THIS SHIP! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
OM
OUT
CONT'D.


ALL RIGHT IN THERE?
OKAY.
SEND MEN TO SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THIS SHIP.
RIGHT, BOSS.
THAT WAS FINE, SPARKS. NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL TAKE OVER.
5-14
CALLING COAST GUARD CUTTER~~ CALLING COAST GUARD CUTTER~~
MIGHTY 7th WAR LOAN
COAST GUARD CUTTER M-357. GO AHEAD.
BLUE GANG SHIP AT ROCKY POINT. SMUGGLERS ABOARD
SMUGGLERS?
YES. NICE COMPANY YOU KEEP.
BUT WHY DID THEY KIDNAP ME? I'M NOT SMUGGLEABLE.
WE'LL KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS SOON.
5-15

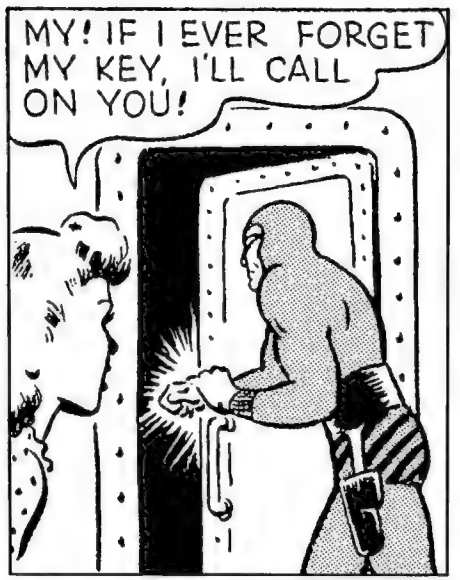
THE SEARCH FOR THE PHANTOM AND DIANA GOES ON~~

YOU HIT~ AWFULLY HARD. DOESN'T IT EVER HURT YOUR HANDS?
THEY'VE HAD LOTS OF PRACTICE.

BOYS ARE COVERING THE SHIP. NO SIGN OF THEM YET. MAYBE THEY JUMPED OFF.

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THE PHANTOM LOOKS LIKE?
I DON'T WANNA FIND OUT.
5-16

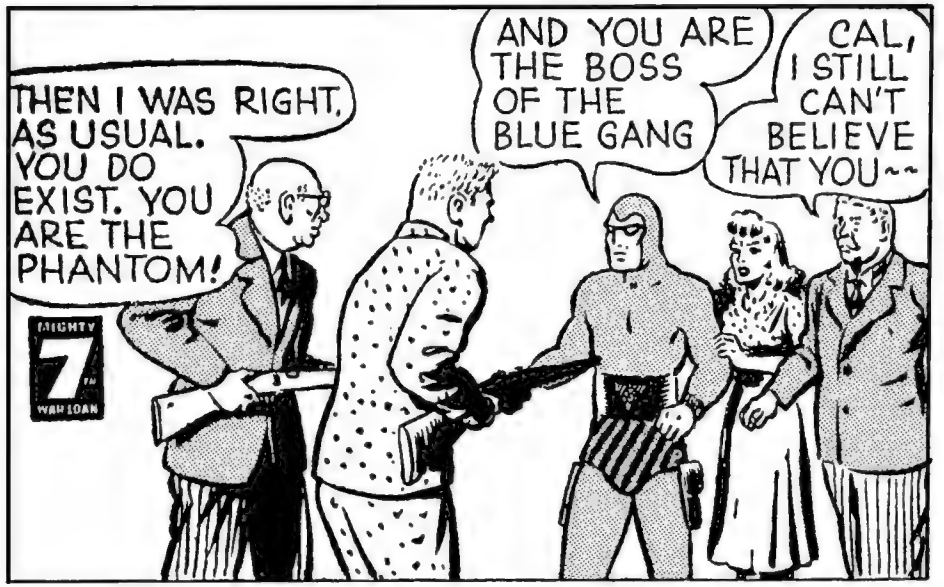
THERE'S ANOTHER PRISONER ABOARD. A MAN. DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS. HE'S IN THE NEXT CABIN.
5-17


MY! IF I EVER FORGET MY KEY, I'LL CALL ON YOU!

WHO~~ ARE YOU?
MEN CALL ME THE PHANTOM.

THEN~~ IT'S TRUE! YOU ARE!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
TOMORROW: A LITTLE LIGHT.

SO YOU HAD A BET-- THAT I DIDN'T EXIST.
WELL, THE LOSER WOULD GIVE THE MONEY TO CHARITY.
5-18
WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT THE BOSS?
I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS. HE MOVES IN THE HIGHEST SOCIAL CIRCLES.
QUITE WEALTHY AND RESPECTABLE. KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS. WHEN HE SAID HE WAS HOLDING ME FOR RANSOM-- I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
YOUR SOCIETY FRIEND HAPPENS TO BE THE BOSS OF THE BLUE GANG, THE SLICKEST SMUGGLERS ON THIS COAST.
WE CAUGHT SOME OF THE BLUE GANG A FEW YEARS BACK, SMUGGLING DIAMONDS, BUT WE NEVER COULD FIND THE BRAIN!
ARE YOU CERTAIN CAL IS--
THE BOSS! ONE OF THE GANG, FATSO VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION.
5-19
OH--
SO THIS IS THE PHANTOM! IN THE FLESH!
CONT'D.


THEN I WAS RIGHT, AS USUAL. YOU DO EXIST. YOU ARE THE PHANTOM!
AND YOU ARE THE BOSS OF THE BLUE GANG
CAL, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU~~
MIGHTY 7 TH WAR LOAN

I AM FORCED TO KILL ALL OF YOU. I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR THAT RANSOM, JOHN.
5-21

CHAIN THEM UP, AND HEAVE THEM ALL OVERBOARD, AT ONCE!

I REGRET THIS MORE THAN I CAN TELL YOU, JOHN, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU GO HOME AND SPREAD TALES ABOUT ME, CAN I?

YOU'LL BE PUNISHED~~ SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY~~

BOSS~~A COAST GUARD CUTTER!
5-22

I'M GETTING AWAY FROM HERE~IN MY PLANE! FINISH THE JOB, TRIGGER! I MUSTN'T BE FOUND HERE!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, BOSS. YOU'RE NOT GONNA DITCH US HERE TO FACE THE MUSIC!
WHAT MUSIC? IT'S JUST A ROUTINE INSPECTION BY THE COAST GUARD CUTTER.
YEAH? SEZ YOU!
THOSE GUYS KNOW US ~~ WE DID THREE YEARS IN JAIL TO COVER YOU.
AN' THEY DON'T KNOW YOU ~~ BOSS.
5-23
AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO KNOW ME.
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT ~~
RUN OUT ON US, WILL YA?
NEVER COULD RESIST A GOOD FIGHT ~~
5-24
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
LOOKS LIKE A FIGHT!

WELL, TRIGGER AND SLIM ARE OLD "FRIENDS" OF OURS, BUT WHO IS THIS?
THE BOSS OF THE BLUE GANG, CAPTAIN.

IF I'D STUCK TO MY HUNCH THAT YOU REALLY EXISTED, I'D NEVER GOTTEN INTO THIS JAM!
5-25

BUT YOU THREW ME OFF WITH THAT TALK ABOUT A MISTER WALKER! BLAST YOU, TRIGGER!
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TAKE IT EASY. YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO FIGHT IN THE BRIG!
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN

I'M SORRY YOU WERE PUT TO SO MUCH TROUBLE.
HMM~~ AFTER THIS, DON'T BET.

SO YOU SEE, DIANA, THEY KIDNAPPED YOU TO FIND ME.
OH, DEAR, I HOPE MAMA GOT HOME ALL RIGHT. I'LL WIRE HER AT ONCE!

LET ME HELP YOU ROW~~ OH-WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY OARS!
NEVER MIND. LET'S JUST DRIFT.

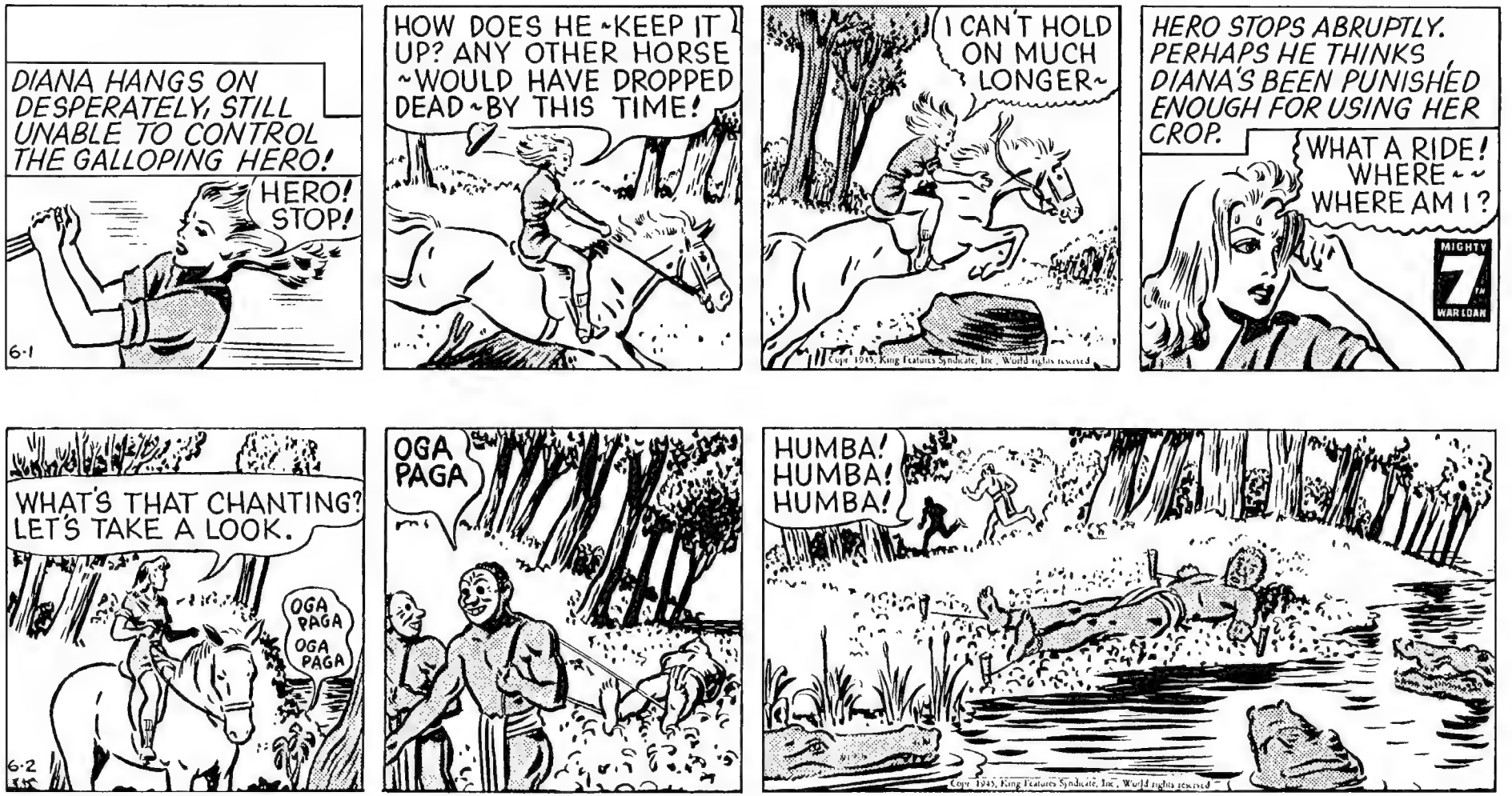
DRIFTING'S~ SO NICE~~
5-26
BEGINNING NEXT WEEK~~ "LAGO, THE LAKE GOD."

Chapter Three: Lago the Lake God

the PHANTOM®

BEGINNING~ LAGO, THE LAKE GOD.
IN THE DEEP WOODS, THE PHANTOM MEETS WITH THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS.
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU. MAY I RIDE HERO?
NOT ALONE, DIANA. HE'S TOO STRONG FOR YOU!
5-28
WHEN THE COUNCIL IS OVER, I'LL GO WITH YOU.
I CAN GO ALONE. I'VE RIDDEN HORSES ALL MY LIFE~~
I'VE COME TO RIDE HERO.
PHANTOM NO TELL ME.
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
PHANTOM SAY NOBODY TO RIDE HERO. TOO DANGEROUS.
NONSENSE.
5-29
HERO KNOWS ME, AND HE'S GENTLE AS A LAMB
I ONLY SAY WHAT PHANTOM TELL ME.
AND BESIDES, I'VE RIDDEN SINCE I WAS KNEE-HIGH TO A GRASS-HOPPER. TAKE OFF, HERO!
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN

AGAINST THE PHANTOM'S WISHES, DIANA RIDES OFF ON HERO.
COME ON, HERO! LET YOURSELF GO!
IN HER EXCITEMENT, SHE USES HER RIDING CROP.
FASTER! FASTER!
5-30
HERO IS OUTRAGED!
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
TAKING THE BIT IN HIS TEETH, HERO BREAKS INTO A FURIOUS GALLOP
OH, HERO! I'M SORRY... STOP... STOP!
THE COUNCIL IS OVER. WE WILL MEET AGAIN WHEN THE MOON IS NEW.
NOW I'LL TAKE DIANA FOR A LITTLE RIDE ON HERO.
SHE RODE OFF ON HERO...I TRIED TO STOP HER!
IF HE DECIDES TO TAKE OFF, SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HOLD HIM.
SHE'S SO DARNED HEADSTRONG! MAYBE THAT'S WHY I LOVE HER.
5-31


DIANA HANGS ON DESPERATELY, STILL UNABLE TO CONTROL THE GALLOPING HERO!
HERO! STOP!
6-1
HOW DOES HE ~KEEP IT UP? ANY OTHER HORSE ~WOULD HAVE DROPPED DEAD ~BY THIS TIME!
I CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
HERO STOPS ABRUPTLY. PERHAPS HE THINKS DIANA'S BEEN PUNISHED ENOUGH FOR USING HER CROP.
WHAT A RIDE! WHERE ~~ WHERE AM I?
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
WHAT'S THAT CHANTING? LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
OGA PAGA OGA PAGA
6-2
OGA PAGA
HUMBA! HUMBA! HUMBA!
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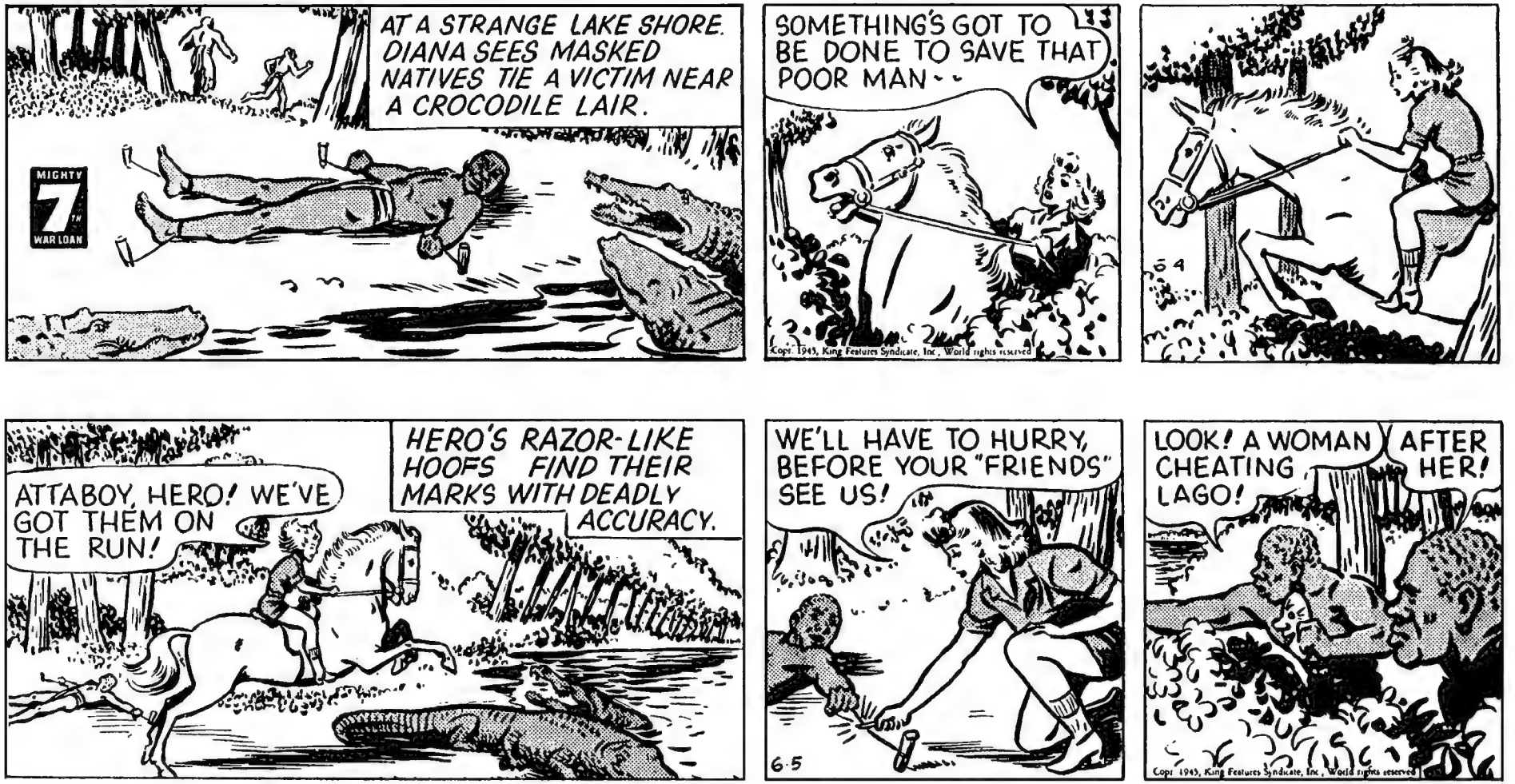
AT A STRANGE LAKE SHORE. DIANA SEES MASKED NATIVES TIE A VICTIM NEAR A CROCODILE LAIR.
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE TO SAVE THAT POOR MAN - -
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
6-4
ATTABOY, HERO! WE'VE GOT THEM ON THE RUN!
HERO'S RAZOR-LIKE HOOFS FIND THEIR MARKS WITH DEADLY ACCURACY.
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY, BEFORE YOUR "FRIENDS" SEE US!
6-5
LOOK! A WOMAN CHEATING LAGO!
AFTER HER!
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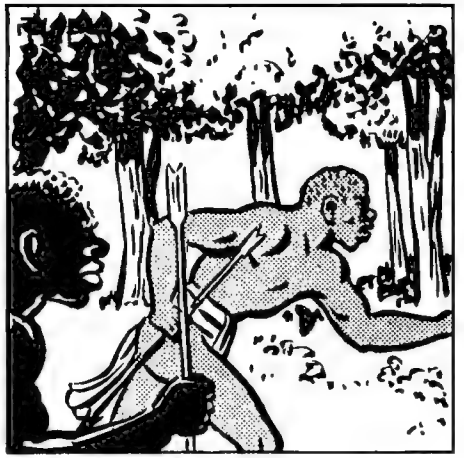
QUICK! ON YOUR FEET!
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN



THIS WAY!
6-6
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WHO IS LAGO?
LAGO HAS BEEN CHEATED OF HIS SACRIFICE!
LAGO WILL BE ANGRY!

WHY WERE YOU BEING FED TO THE CROCODILES?
I WOULD NOT PAY THE GOLD TRIBUTE TO LAGO.

LAGO? HE IS THE GOD OF OUR LAKE AND HIS WRATH WILL ONLY BE APPEASED WITH GOLD.
6 7

A LAKE GOD? THAT'S NONSENSE
NO, IT IS TRUE THERE IS AN EVIL GOD WHO DWELLS IN OUR LAKE.

FOLLOW ME. MAYBE YOU WILL SEE LAGO FOR YOURSELF!
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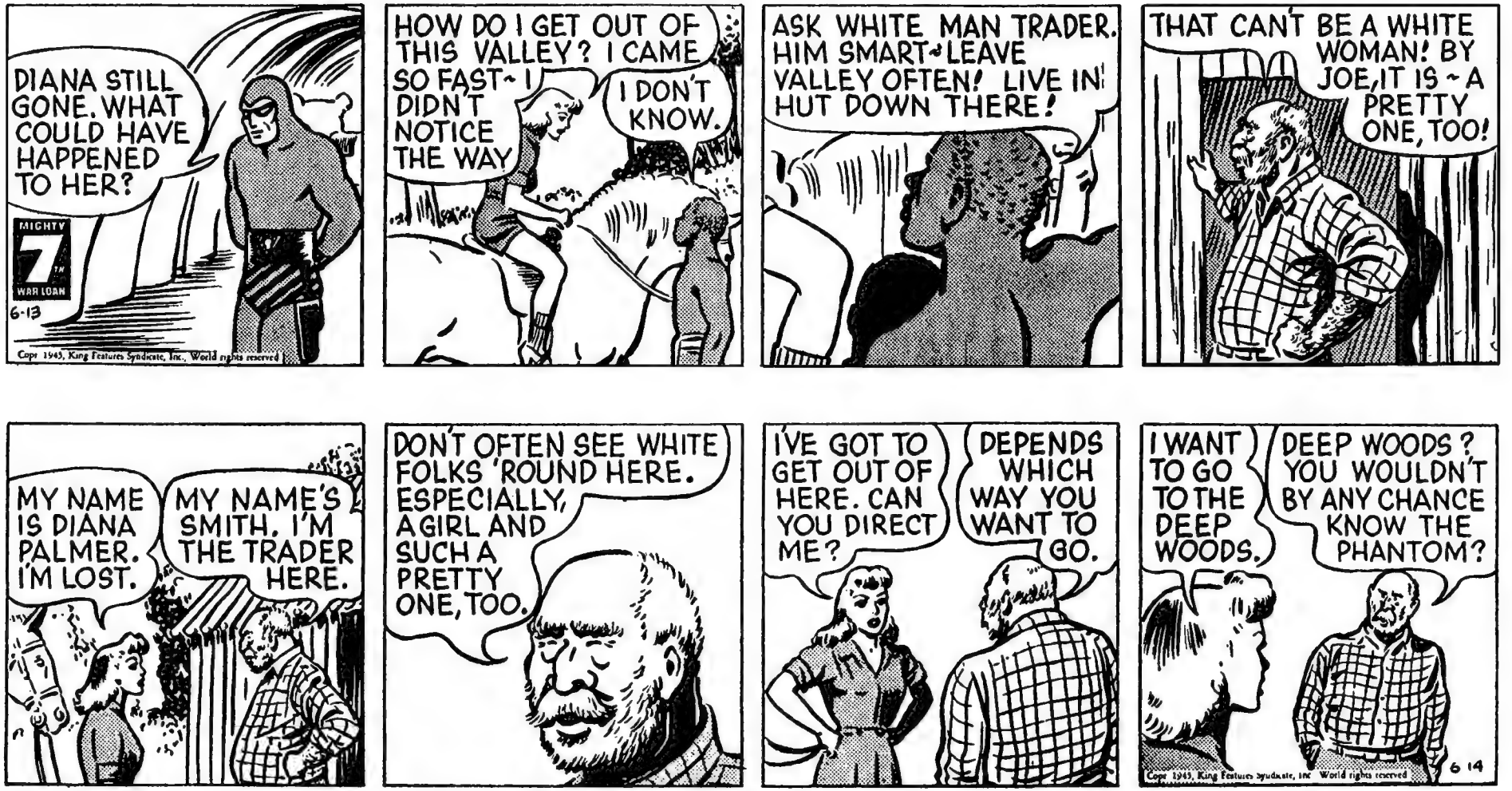
OH, LAGO, BE MERCIFUL. YOU HAVE BEEN CHEATED BY A STRANGER NOT OF THIS TRIBE.
MY VENGEANCE WILL BE TERRIBLE!!!
SEE! LAGO, THE LAKE GOD!
6-8
THEN, FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE MYSTERIOUS LAKE . . .
DIANA SEES THE ARM OF LAGO, THE LAKE GOD!
THE ARM'S GONE!
LAGO ANGRY THAT I ESCAPE. WILL MAKE FLOOD!
MYSTERIOUSLY, THE WATERS OF THE LAKE RISE! WHAT IS THIS?
6-9

LAGO'S PROMISE OF PUNISHMENT IS FULFILLED, AS THE WATERS OF THE LAKE RISE MYSTERIOUSLY
6-11
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. IT'S FANTASTIC!
FOR MANY MOONS THIS EVIL GOD HAS TAKEN OUR RICHES. SEE!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
FRANTIC, THE NATIVES FLOAT OUT A PILE OF GOLD, AS A PEACE OFFERING TO THE TERRIBLE LAGO!
THE GOLD WILL APPEASE HIM. THE WATERS WILL LOWER!
I WAS PERFECTLY SANE THIS MORNING - AT LEAST, I THINK I WAS.
THE WATERS OF THE LAKE STILL RISE, AS THE GOLD OFFERING IS FLOATED OUT TO LAGO, THE LAKE GOD!
6-12
THE ARM OF THE LAKE GOD RECEIVES THE OFFERING
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
OUR OFFERING HAS BEEN ACCEPTED. THE CRUEL WATERS ARE GOING BACK!
YES, I'M AWAKE - HOW'LL I TELL THE PHANTOM ABOUT THIS? HE WON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT! WHO WOULD?


DIANA STILL GONE. WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HER?
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
6-13
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS VALLEY? I CAME SO FAST~ I DIDN'T NOTICE THE WAY
I DON'T KNOW.
ASK WHITE MAN TRADER. HIM SMART~ LEAVE VALLEY OFTEN! LIVE IN HUT DOWN THERE!
THAT CAN'T BE A WHITE WOMAN! BY JOE, IT IS ~ A PRETTY ONE, TOO!
MY NAME IS DIANA PALMER. I'M LOST.
MY NAME'S SMITH. I'M THE TRADER HERE.
DON'T OFTEN SEE WHITE FOLKS 'ROUND HERE. ESPECIALLY, A GIRL AND SUCH A PRETTY ONE, TOO.
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE. CAN YOU DIRECT ME?
DEPENDS WHICH WAY YOU WANT TO GO.
I WANT TO GO TO THE DEEP WOODS.
DEEP WOODS? YOU WOULDN'T BY ANY CHANCE KNOW THE PHANTOM?
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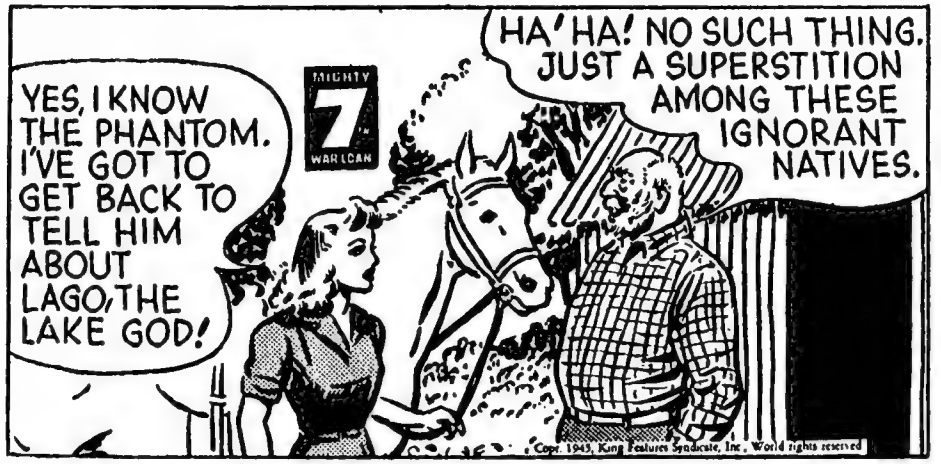
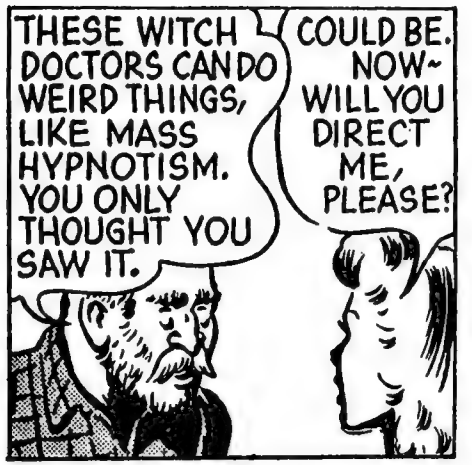
6 14


YES, I KNOW THE PHANTOM. I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO TELL HIM ABOUT LAGO, THE LAKE GOD!
MIGHTY 7 WAR LCAN
HA' HA! NO SUCH THING. JUST A SUPERSTITION AMONG THESE IGNORANT NATIVES.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

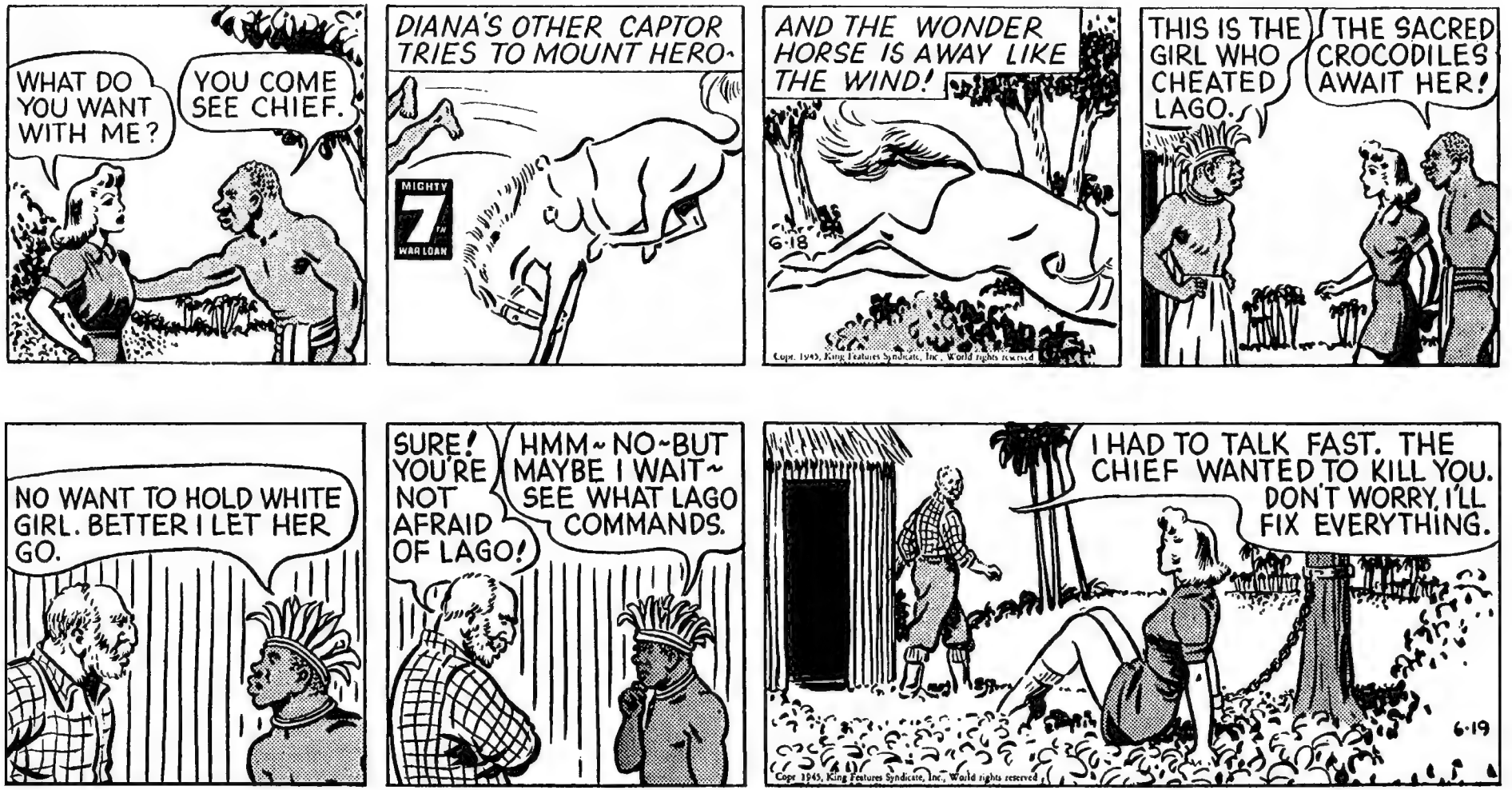
NOW LISTEN, MR. SMITH! I SAW HIS ARM IN THE LAKE AND I SAW THE WATER RISE AND FALL.
6-15


THESE WITCH DOCTORS CAN DO WEIRD THINGS, LIKE MASS HYPNOTISM. YOU ONLY THOUGHT YOU SAW IT.
COULD BE. NOW~ WILL YOU DIRECT ME, PLEASE?

FOLLOW THE TRAIL AROUND THE SULPHUR SWAMP. STICK CLOSE TO THE ROCKS.
THANKS, MR. SMITH. MAYBE WE'LL BE BACK FOR A VISIT SOON.

SOMEHOW, HE GAVE ME THE WILLIES.
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

BUT DIANA DOESN'T GET VERY FAR ~~
OH~~!
6-16


WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
YOU COME SEE CHIEF.
DIANA'S OTHER CAPTOR TRIES TO MOUNT HERO-
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
AND THE WONDER HORSE IS AWAY LIKE THE WIND!
6-18
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THIS IS THE GIRL WHO CHEATED LAGO.
THE SACRED CROCODILES AWAIT HER!
NO WANT TO HOLD WHITE GIRL. BETTER I LET HER GO.
SURE! YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF LAGO!
HMM~ NO~BUT MAYBE I WAIT~ SEE WHAT LAGO COMMANDS.
I HAD TO TALK FAST. THE CHIEF WANTED TO KILL YOU. DON'T WORRY, I'LL FIX EVERYTHING.
6-19
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

YOU WILL BE HELD UNTIL LAGO TELLS US WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
THIS NONSENSE CANT GO ANY FURTHER!
MAYBE IT CAN~~
WHAT WILL THEY DO TO ME?
EITHER GIVE YOU TO THE CROCODILES OR LAGO, HIMSELF. AT LEAST THAT'S CUSTOMARY.
6-20
DON'T WORRY. I'LL GET YOU OUT.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
GOSH, DIANA'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG. BETTER START A SEARCH IMMEDIATELY!
6-21
HERO! BUT, WHERE'S DIANA?
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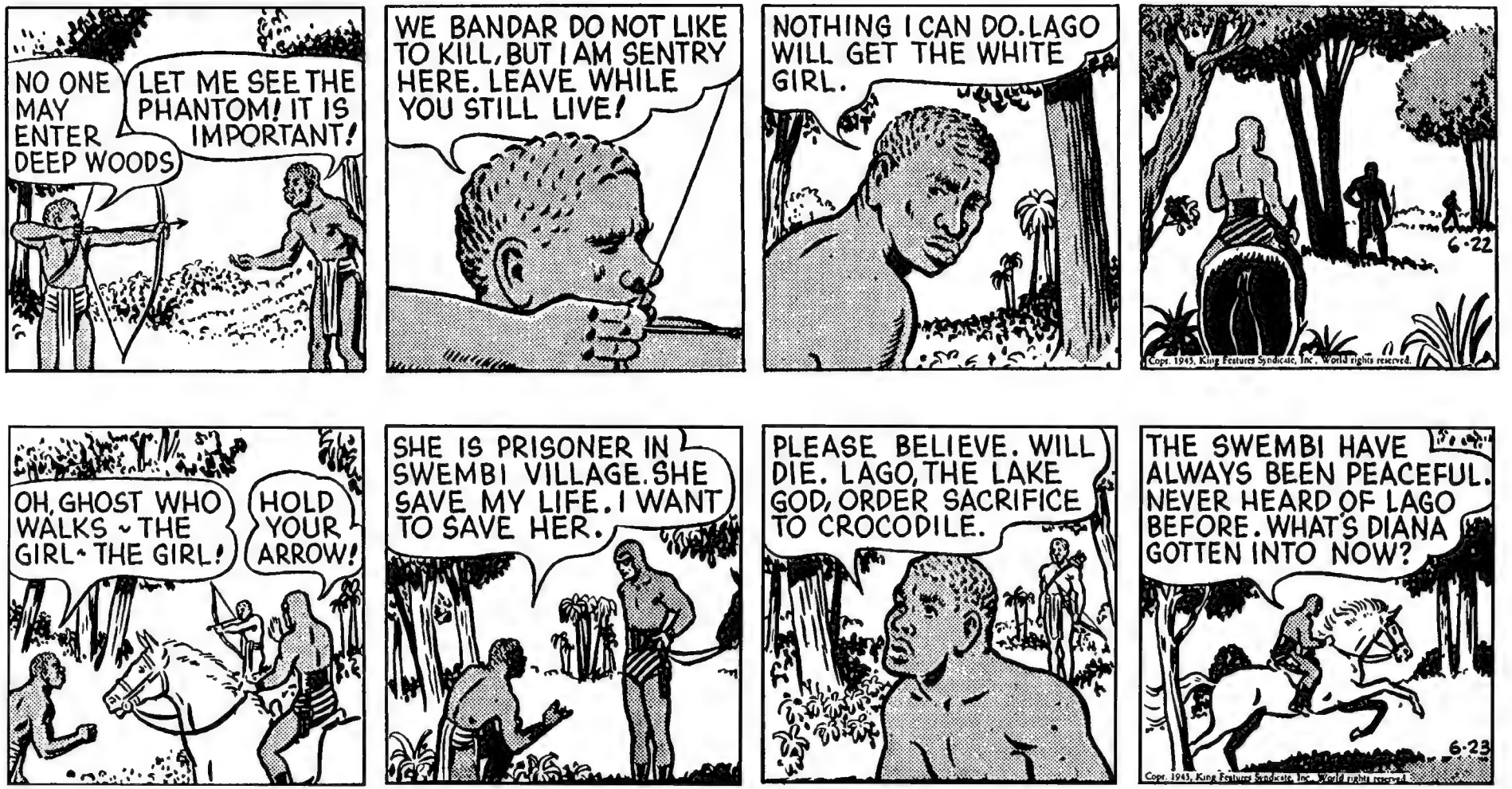
MEANWHILE, AT THE EDGE OF THE DEEP WOODS ~
TAKE ME TO THE PHANTOM!
GO BACK. NO ONE CAN ENTER HERE.
THE PYGMY POINTS HIS POISONED ARROW!
I MUST TELL HIM OF HIS FRIEND~ THE GIRL!
I GIVE YOU ONE MORE WARNING~ GO BACK!


NO ONE MAY ENTER DEEP WOODS
LET ME SEE THE PHANTOM! IT IS IMPORTANT!
WE BANDAR DO NOT LIKE TO KILL, BUT I AM SENTRY HERE. LEAVE WHILE YOU STILL LIVE!
NOTHING I CAN DO. LAGO WILL GET THE WHITE GIRL.
6-22
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
OH, GHOST WHO WALKS ~ THE GIRL ~ THE GIRL!
HOLD YOUR ARROW!
SHE IS PRISONER IN SWEMBI VILLAGE. SHE SAVE MY LIFE. I WANT TO SAVE HER.
PLEASE BELIEVE. WILL DIE. LAGO, THE LAKE GOD, ORDER SACRIFICE TO CROCODILE.
THE SWEMBI HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PEACEFUL. NEVER HEARD OF LAGO BEFORE. WHAT'S DIANA GOTTEN INTO NOW?
6-23
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

CHIEF WANTS TO SEE YOU, QUICK!
WHAT'S HAPPENED
WHAT'S THE OLD FOOL WANT NOW?
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, CHIEF?
NO WANT TO KEEP WHITE GIRL. SHE IS FRIEND OF PHANTOM.
WHITE GIRL SAY PHANTOM COME, FINISH ME. FINISH ALL OF US!
6-25
THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS ANCIENT AND ALL-POWERFUL. IF THE GIRL IS HIS FRIEND~~
POOH! THE PHANTOM IS NO GOD~HE IS A MAN. LAGO WILL DESTROY HIM, IF HE DARES COME HERE!
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
6-26
DON'T WORRY, CHIEF. LAGO WILL DECIDE THE GIRL'S FATE.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
IT LOOKS PRETTY GOOD, MISS. I'VE ALMOST GOT THE CHIEF SOLD ON THE IDEA OF LETTING YOU GO.

DIANA REALLY TOOK YOU FOR A RIDE, HERO- OR DID YOU TAKE HER?
MEANWHILE, AT THE SWEMBI VILLAGE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
LAGO WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE
IS'NT THAT JUST DANDY! NOW, YOU LET ME GO OR--
QUIET, WHITE GIRL! LAGO, MOST FEARFUL GOD, SPEAK!
6-27
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
GOOD WORK, HERO. LET'S TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
THERE'S DIANA! WHAT KIND OF MUMBO-JUMBO IS GOING ON?
LOOK, CHIEF. YOU WIN. I'M SCARED. NOW LET ME GO HOME.
LAGO!
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
SWEMBI! LISTEN-- I, LAGO, THE ALL-POWERFUL, SPEAK!
6-28
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

THE WHITE GIRL CHEATED ME OF MY SACRIFICE
GIVE THE WHITE GIRL TO MY SACRED CROCODILES
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, FELLOWS~~
6-29
TIED HAND AND FOOT, DIANA FLOATS AMONG THE HUNGRY CROCODILES WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO FEED FROM THIS RAFT.
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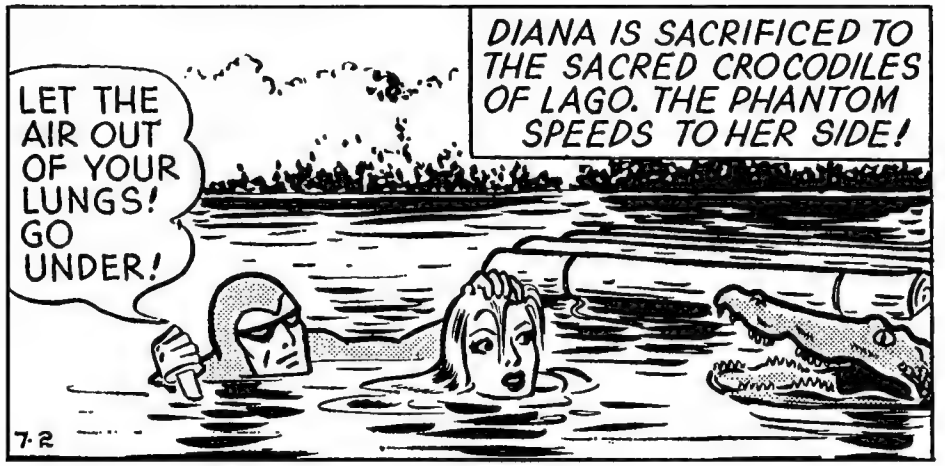
MIGHTY 7TH WAR LOAN
DIANA~!
6-30
CAN THE PHANTOM GET TO HER IN TIME?


LET THE AIR OUT OF YOUR LUNGS! GO UNDER!
DIANA IS SACRIFICED TO THE SACRED CROCODILES OF LAGO. THE PHANTOM SPEEDS TO HER SIDE!
7-2

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THE PHANTOM! THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
LAGO WILL DESTROY HIM!

THE PHANTOM FIGHTS OFF THE SACRED CROCODILES OF LAGO!

DARLING, ARE YOU STILL WITH US?
BARELY. UGH! THOSE CROCODILES!
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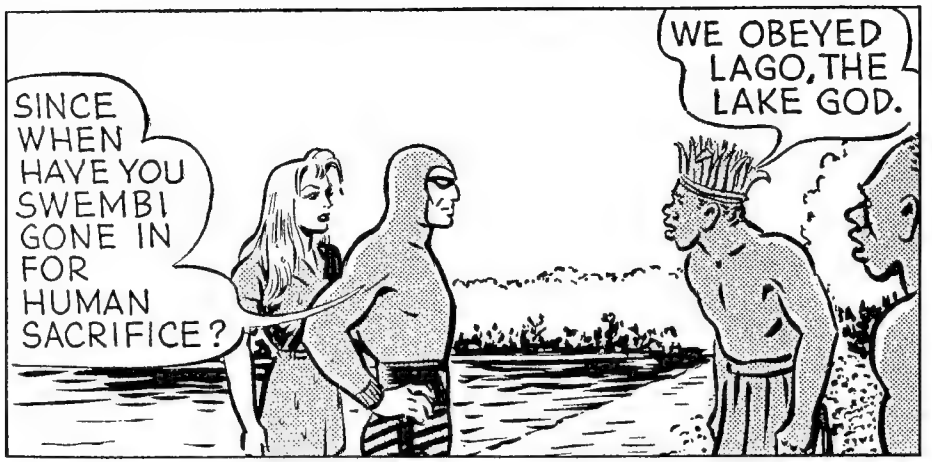
NOW, MEN OF SWEMBI. YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO! START TALKING!
RISE IN YOUR WRATH, GREAT LAGO! STRIKE HIM DOWN!
7-3


SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU SWEMBI GONE IN FOR HUMAN SACRIFICE?
WE OBEYED LAGO, THE LAKE GOD.

WHAT NONSENSE! THERE IS NO LAKE GOD!
IF THERE IS A LAGO, HE WILL STRIKE YOU DEAD!
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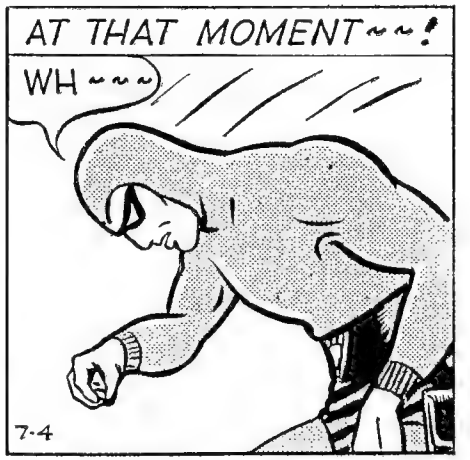
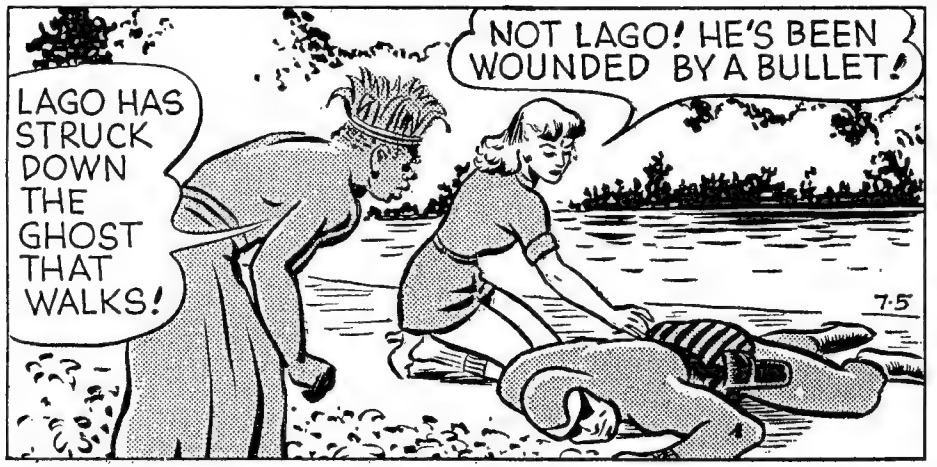

AT THAT MOMENT~~!
WH~~~
7-4


LAGO HAS STRUCK DOWN THE GHOST THAT WALKS!
NOT LAGO! HE'S BEEN WOUNDED BY A BULLET!
7-5

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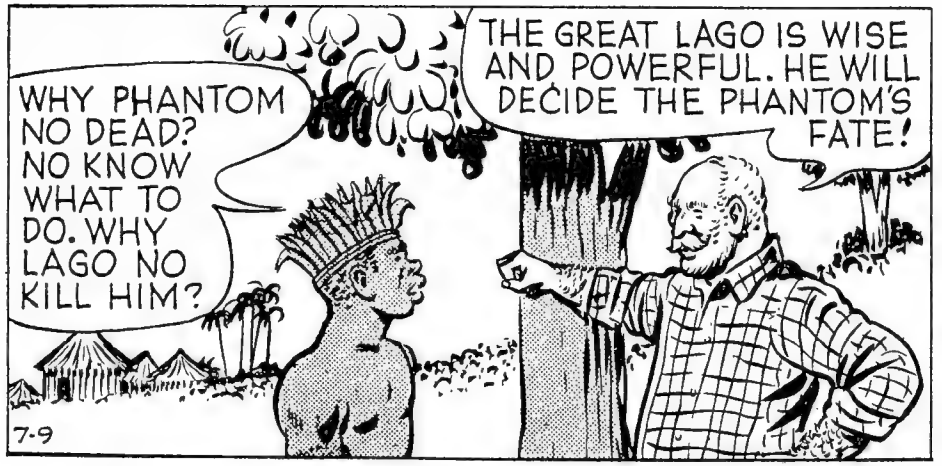
WHAT HAPPENED?
LAGO STRUCK DOWN THE PHANTOM! LAGO IS GREATER THAN THE PHANTOM!

OH, MY DARLING. YOU'VE GOT TO LIVE!
I PROBABLY WILL.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
BUT-- YOU WERE SHOT
JUST A SCRATCH. I FAKED THE FAINT OR A SECOND BULLET MIGHT HAVE FINISHED ME!
IF I HADN'T RIDDEN OFF ON HERO, THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
NO REGRETS, DIANA. WE'RE IN THIS AND WE'LL HAVE TO SEE IT THRU!
7-6
STILL UNCONSCIOUS --
GOTTA PLAY "OUT" UNTIL I SEE A CHANCE TO GET OUT!
SO THAT'S THE STORY.
PLAYING, EH? PRETTY SOON IT WILL BE FOR KEEPS!
7-7


WHY PHANTOM NO DEAD? NO KNOW WHAT TO DO. WHY LAGO NO KILL HIM?
THE GREAT LAGO IS WISE AND POWERFUL. HE WILL DECIDE THE PHANTOM'S FATE!
7-9

S'LONG, CHIEF. SEE YOU LATER.
MAYBE BEST TO LET PHANTOM FREE.

THE DEADLY SULPHUR SWAMP!
GOT TO WORK FAST OR THAT CHICKEN-HEARTED CHIEF WILL RUIN EVERY-THING.
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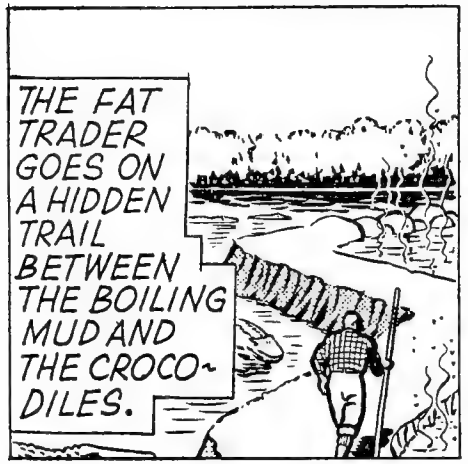
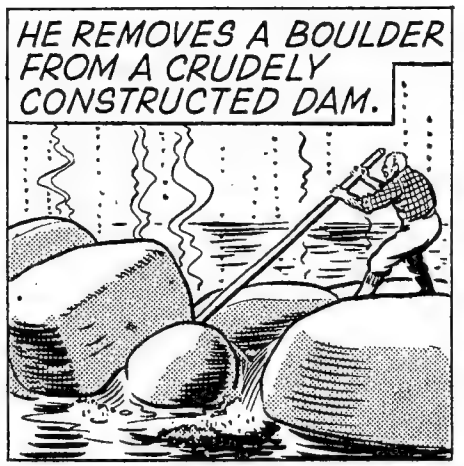

THE FAT TRADER GOES ON A HIDDEN TRAIL BETWEEN THE BOILING MUD AND THE CROCO-DILES.


HE REMOVES A BOULDER FROM A CRUDELY CONSTRUCTED DAM.

AND NOW, A LITTLE MAN-MADE MAGIC!
7-10
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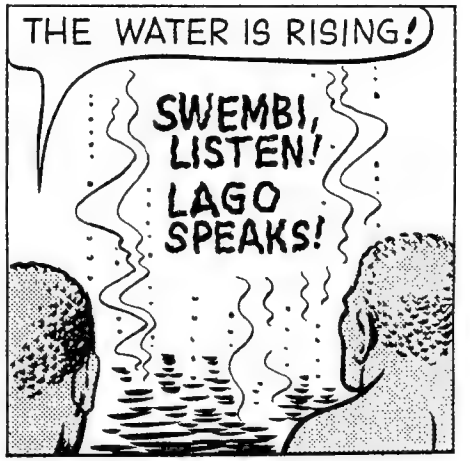
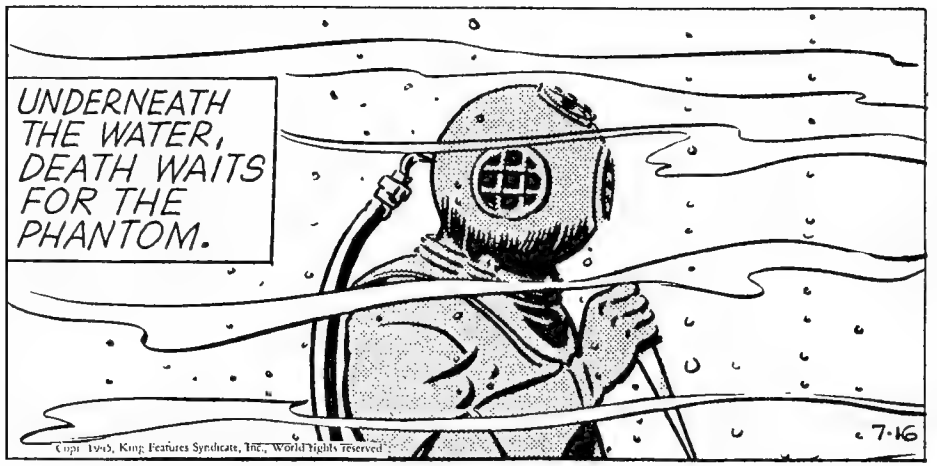

THE WATER IS RISING!
SWEMBI, LISTEN! LAGO SPEAKS!

SWEMBI! I CALL YOU AGAIN! IT IS I, LAGO!
--IT IS I, LAGO--
SACRIFICE THE PHANTOM TO ME OR I WILL FLOOD YOUR LAND! YOU WILL DROWN LIKE RATS!
7-11
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
SACRIFICE THE PHANTOM TO LAGO
THE WILL OF LAGO SHALL BE DONE!
LISTEN TO THOSE EERIE WORDS COMING OUT OF THE LAKE!
THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU. YOU CAN'T LET THEM TAKE YOU!
IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO FIND LAGO!
7-12
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

THE GHOST WHO WALKS DOES NOT EVEN STRUGGLE. FEAR OF LAGO MAKES HIM SPEECHLESS.
PLACE HIM ON THE RAFT.
7-13
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THE PHANTOM FLOATS CLOSER TO THE GRIM DEATH THAT AWAITS HIM.
THIS IS A GREAT DAY.
THE ONE MAN WHO I WAS AFRAID MIGHT UNCOVER MY LITTLE GAME~~~
7-14
THE JUNGLE WILL RING WITH THE NEWS! LAGO DESTROYS THE PHANTOM!


UNDERNEATH THE WATER, DEATH WAITS FOR THE PHANTOM.
7-16
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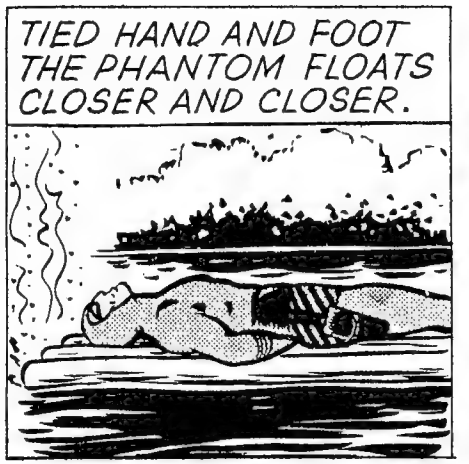
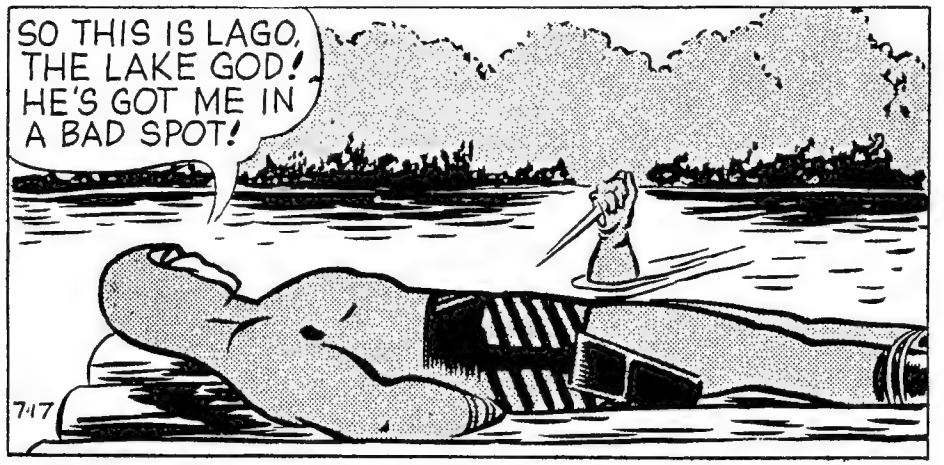
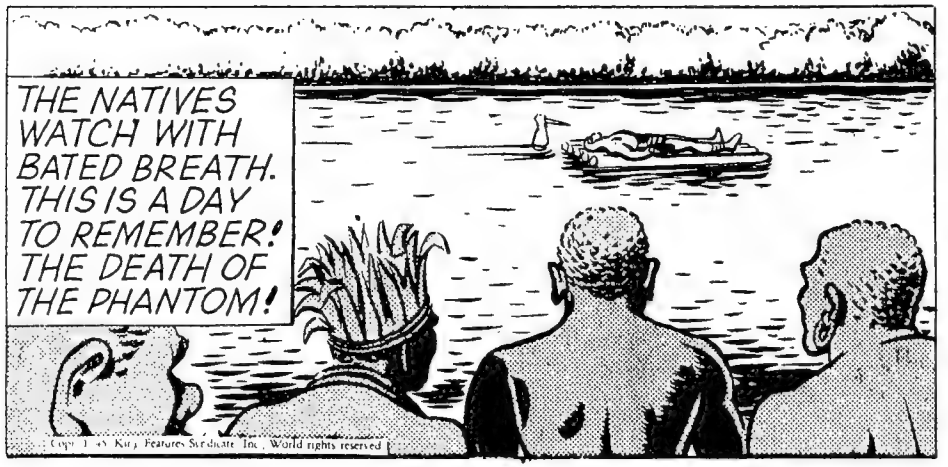

TIED HAND AND FOOT THE PHANTOM FLOATS CLOSER AND CLOSER.

OUR GUEST HAS ARRIVED AT LAST.

THE TRADER PREPARES TO STRIKE ~
Copr. 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

AWARE OF HIS MASTER'S PLIGHT, "DEVIL" PLUNGES INTO THE WATER


SO THIS IS LAGO, THE LAKE GOD! HE'S GOT ME IN A BAD SPOT!
7-17


THE NATIVES WATCH WITH BATED BREATH. THIS IS A DAY TO REMEMBER! THE DEATH OF THE PHANTOM!
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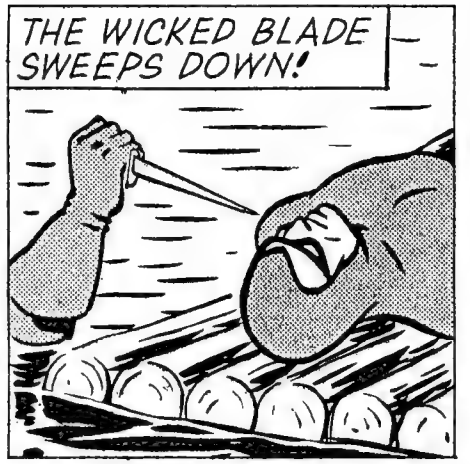
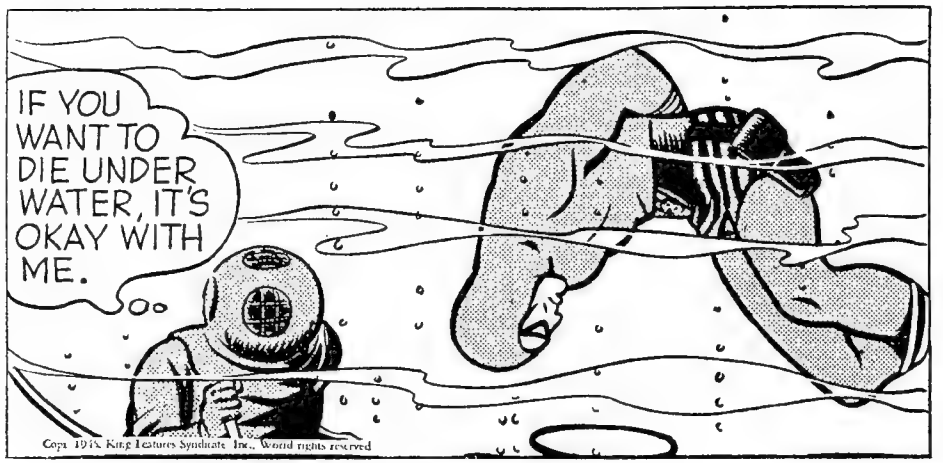

THE WICKED BLADE SWEEPS DOWN!

BUT THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY ROLLS OFF THE RAFT INTO THE LAKE!
7 18


IF YOU WANT TO DIE UNDER WATER, IT'S OKAY WITH ME.
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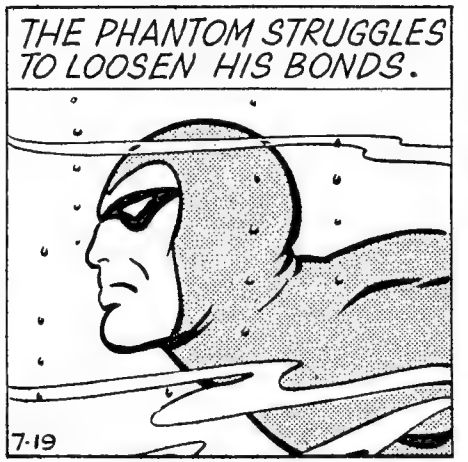
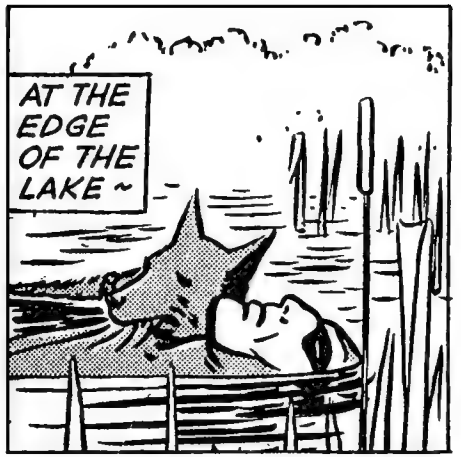

THE PHANTOM STRUGGLES TO LOOSEN HIS BONDS.
7-19

AS THE FAT MAN IS ABOUT TO STRIKE AT THE PHANTOM ~ "DEVIL" SWIMS DOWN ~ ~

"DEVIL" SWERVES TO AVOID A MURDER-OUS THRUST!
Copr 1935, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WITH UNCANNY INTELLIGENCE, "DEVIL" BITES AT THE AIR HOSE OF THE FAT TRADER!
MY AIR HOSE ~~ I'LL SUFFOCATE!
GASPING FOR AIR, HE IS FORCED OUT OF THE WATER!
7-20
THAT WAS CLOSE ~~ PUFF-PUFF ~ DOG NEARLY GOT ME!
AT LEAST ~ I'VE FINISHED THE PHANTOM! NO SIGN OF HIM!
SWEMBI! LISTEN! THE PHANTOM IS DEAD! LAGO HAS SPOKEN!
DON'T BE TOO SURE!
THE PHANTOM IS DEAD!
7-21


AT THE EDGE OF THE LAKE ~

YOU HAVE HEARD. THE PHANTOM IS DEAD. LAGO IS ALL-POWERFUL.
IT'S NOT TRUE! IT CAN'T BE!

LAGO DEMANDS ~~
7-23
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

THE WHITE GIRL AS A SACRIFICE!

PLACE THE WHITE GIRL ON THE RAFT! LAGO SPEAKS!
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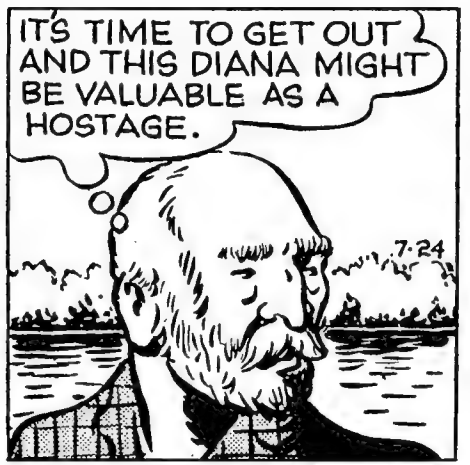
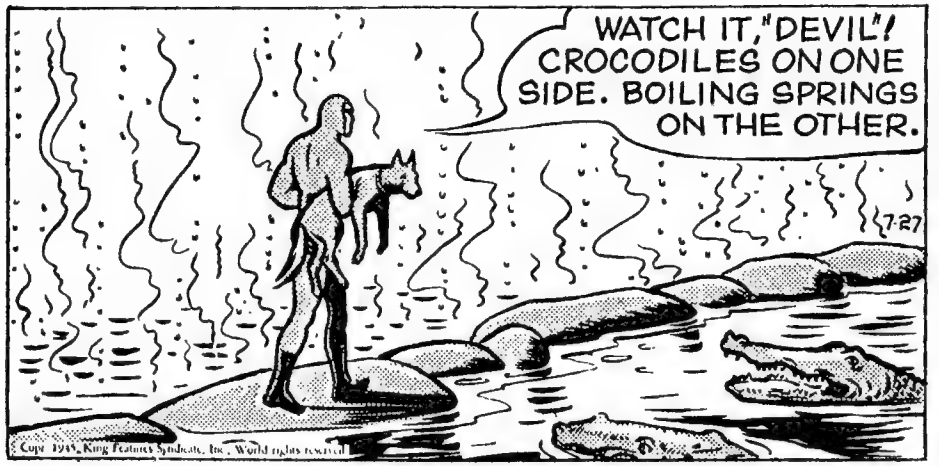

IT'S TIME TO GET OUT AND THIS DIANA MIGHT BE VALUABLE AS A HOSTAGE.
7-24

PHANTOM ~ DEAD ~~~

LAGO IS GREAT AND POWERFUL. NO SACRIFICE SHALL EVER BE DENIED HIM!

IN A SHELTERED CORNER OF THE LAKE, "DEVIL" DRAGS THE BODY OF HIS MASTER ASHORE!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WHERE AM I? ~ HELLO, FELLA ~ WHAT HAPPENED TO LAGO?
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, "DEVIL". SOMEDAY, TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT.
7-25
DIANA FLOATS TOWARDS THE AVENGING ARM OF LAGO, THE LAKE GOD!
LAGO MAKES OFF QUICKLY WITH HIS "SACRIFICE"!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
YOU! LAGO!
7-26
YOU FAKIR! YOU MURDERER!


WATCH IT, "DEVIL"! CROCODILES ON ONE SIDE. BOILING SPRINGS ON THE OTHER.
7-27
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

NO WONDER THE NATIVES STAYED AWAY FROM THIS END OF THE LAKE. LAGO PICKED A SAFE HIDEOUT!

SOLID GROUND AT LAST! GET THAT NOSE TO WORK, FELLA. LAGO'S BACK HERE SOMEWHERE AND HE'S GOT DIANA!

I'M UNTYING YOU, BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO BE GOOD!
I'LL PROMISE NOTHING!
7-28
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

YOU--YOU MURDERING FAKIR! TRYING TO HELP ME, WEREN'T YOU? AND NOW YOU'VE ~~~

~KILLED HIM!
THAT'S BETTER~ HAVE A GOOD CRY.

I'LL GO TO THE NATIVES! I'LL TELL THEM THAT YOU'RE LAGO, THE LAKE GOD! THEY'LL TEAR YOU APART!
NATURALLY, I CAN'T PERMIT YOU TO DO THAT. IF YOU TAKE ONE STEP OUT OF THIS CAVE, I'LL PUT A BULLET IN YOUR PRETTY SKULL!
7-30
Copr. 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
IT'S TAKEN ME A YEAR TO COLLECT THIS FROM THE SWEMBI ~~ A FORTUNE! I'M READY TO LEAVE NOW ~~~
BACK TO CIVILIZATION! WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH ME OR STAY IN THIS CAVE?
ME? GO WITH YOU?
AS MY WIFE, OF COURSE. WE'LL BE RICH! FABULOUSLY RICH! AFTER ALL, THE PHANTOM IS DEAD.
YOU ARE MAD!
THEN YOU PREFER TO STAY IN THE CAVE ~~
VERY WELL ~~
7-31
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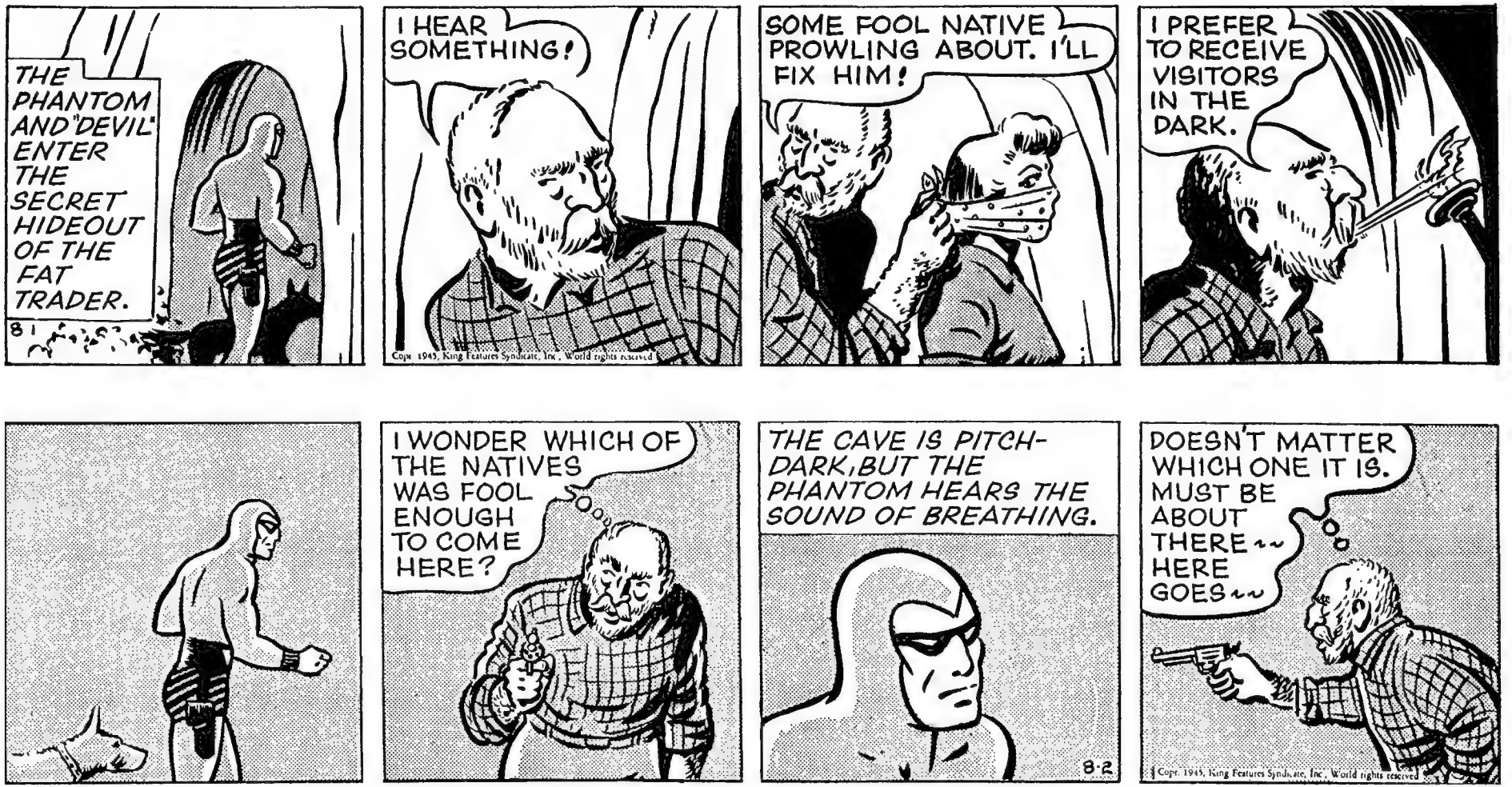
THE PHANTOM AND "DEVIL" ENTER THE SECRET HIDEOUT OF THE FAT TRADER.
8-1
I HEAR SOMETHING!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
SOME FOOL NATIVE PROWLING ABOUT. I'LL FIX HIM!
I PREFER TO RECEIVE VISITORS IN THE DARK.
I WONDER WHICH OF THE NATIVES WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO COME HERE?
THE CAVE IS PITCH-DARK, BUT THE PHANTOM HEARS THE SOUND OF BREATHING.
8-2
DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE IT IS. MUST BE ABOUT THERE ~~ HERE GOES ~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

THE EXPLOSION OF THE TRADER'S GUN SUDDENLY LIGHTS THE PITCH-DARK CAVE!
THE FAT MAN FEELS A SUDDEN, SOFT BLOW IN THE DARKNESS – SCARCELY MORE THAN A SLAP ~ THEN SILENCE!
HE RAN AWAY ~ WHER-EVER HE WAS. I PROBABLY WOUNDED HIM.
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?
8-3
YOUR FACE ~~
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY FACE?
THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM!
8-4
HE WAS HERE ~ BUT HE'S DEAD! DEAD IN THE MUD IN THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE!
SUDDENLY A VOICE SPEAKS IN DEEP TONES THAT ECHO THROUGH THE CAVE!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS CAN NEVER DIE

THE PHANTOM IS DEAD! HE CAN'T COME BACK.
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
YOU'VE BEEN SCARING THE NATIVES FOR A LONG TIME, LAGO. CAN'T TAKE YOUR OWN MEDICINE, I SEE.
DARLING, WHEN I SAW THAT SKULL ON HIS JAW, I KNEW THAT~~ BLUB ~~
8-6
BUT HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF THE LAKE?
"DEVIL" PULLED ME OUT.
DID YOU~~ KILL LAGO?
NO, JUST QUIETED HIM FOR A WHILE.
NOW WHAT?
NOW THE GHOST WHO WALKS AND HIS GIRL FRIEND WILL MAKE AN AMAZING RETURN FROM THE DEAD!
8-7
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

ASSEMBLE BY THE SHORE, MEN OF SWEMBI!
THE PHANTOM RETURNS
THINK YOU CAN HOLD YOUR BREATH UNTIL YOU REACH THE RAFT? A LITTLE WATER WON'T HURT "LAGO".
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
8-8
THE SWEMBI WITNESS THE "MIRACULOUS" REAPPEARENCE OF DIANA FROM THE WATERY GRAVE.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
A LITTLE HOCUS-POCUS IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY.
THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
8-9

THIS IS YOUR LAKE GOD, LAGO. HE'S BEEN FOOLING YOU ALL ALONG.
TRADER SMITH!
THIS IS HOW HE RAISED AND LOWERED THE WATER - WITH THESE SMALL, CRUDE DAMS.
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
AND THERE IS THE GOLD THAT YOU GAVE HIM. HE WAS READY TO TAKE OFF.
B-10
WE WERE FOOLS - TO BELIEVE IN LAGO.
DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD, CHIEF. HE WAS A CLEVER MAN.
I'M LEAVING YOU IN THE CUSTODY OF THE SWEMBI. THEY'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU, "LAGO"
FORGIVE US, GHOST WHO WALKS
ALL IS FORGIVEN, CHIEF, BUT NO MORE MONKEYSHINES.
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
HOW ABOUT ME? I RODE OFF ON HERO AND GOT US INTO ALL THIS.
SAME GOES FOR YOU.
B-11

Chapter Four: The Wild Girl

the PHANTOM®

BEGINNING: "THE WILD GIRL."
DIANA··CALL MOTHER AT ONCE
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
TOM~TOM MESSAGE. IT SAYS~~ "DIANA~CALL MOTHER~~ AT ONCE.
SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED!
8-13
WE'LL GO TO MORRISTOWN. YOU CAN RADIO~PHONE YOUR MOTHER FROM THERE.
LET'S HURRY!
I WANT TO MAKE A RADIO~PHONE CALL TO AMERICA AT ONCE. THIS IS THE NUMBER.
THE CALL GOES THRU, SPANNING OCEANS~~
8-14
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
SORRY, MISS. NO ONE ANSWERS.
KEEP RINGING! PLEASE, KEEP RINGING!

DID YOU HEAR THE PHONE RING, DAVE?
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
Copr. 1935, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I ASKED DIANA TO CALL ME. I JUST WONDERED IF SHE WAS ALRIGHT.
YOU CAN BET YOUR BOOTS SHE IS ~AS LONG AS SHE'S WITH HIM.
NO ONE ANSWERED YOUR CALL TO AMERICA. WOULD YOU LIKE TO CALL AGAIN, LATER?
NO ~~ THANK YOU.
NOBODY WAS HOME! MAMA MAY BE IN A HOSPITAL~OR WORSE! I'D BETTER GO HOME~ AT ONCE!
8-15
I'M CERTAIN SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MAMA. I'VE GOT TO GET HOME AT ONCE.
THERE'S A BOAT LEAVING MORRISTOWN TODAY.
I HATE TO LEAVE, BUT~~ SHE MAY NEED ME.
8-16
GOODBYE, "HERO". GOOD~BYE, "DEVIL". I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN~OH, I'M GOING TO MISS YOU~~!
Copr. 1935, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
AND I'M GOING TO MISS YOU~~SO MUCH!
THE JUNGLE WILL BE EMPTY WITHOUT YOU, DIANA.

GOODBYE~ DIANA.
OH ~ THERE THEY ARE ~ ON THAT CLIFF~ WAVING GOODBYE TO ME ~ GOODBYE~ GOODBYE~
8-17
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
OH~ HOW I HATED TO LEAVE HIM! I'LL NEVER LEAVE HIM AGAIN~ NEVER~NEVER!
THE PHANTOM IS RIDING THRU A SECTION OF JUNGLE HE HASN'T VISITED FOR YEARS~~
THE WOODS SEEM EMPTY~ EVEN THE SONG OF THE BIRDS SOUNDS HOLLOW~ FOR DIANA IS GONE.
WE SURE MISS HER, DON'T WE, FELLAS?
HEY~ WHAT'S THAT?
8-18
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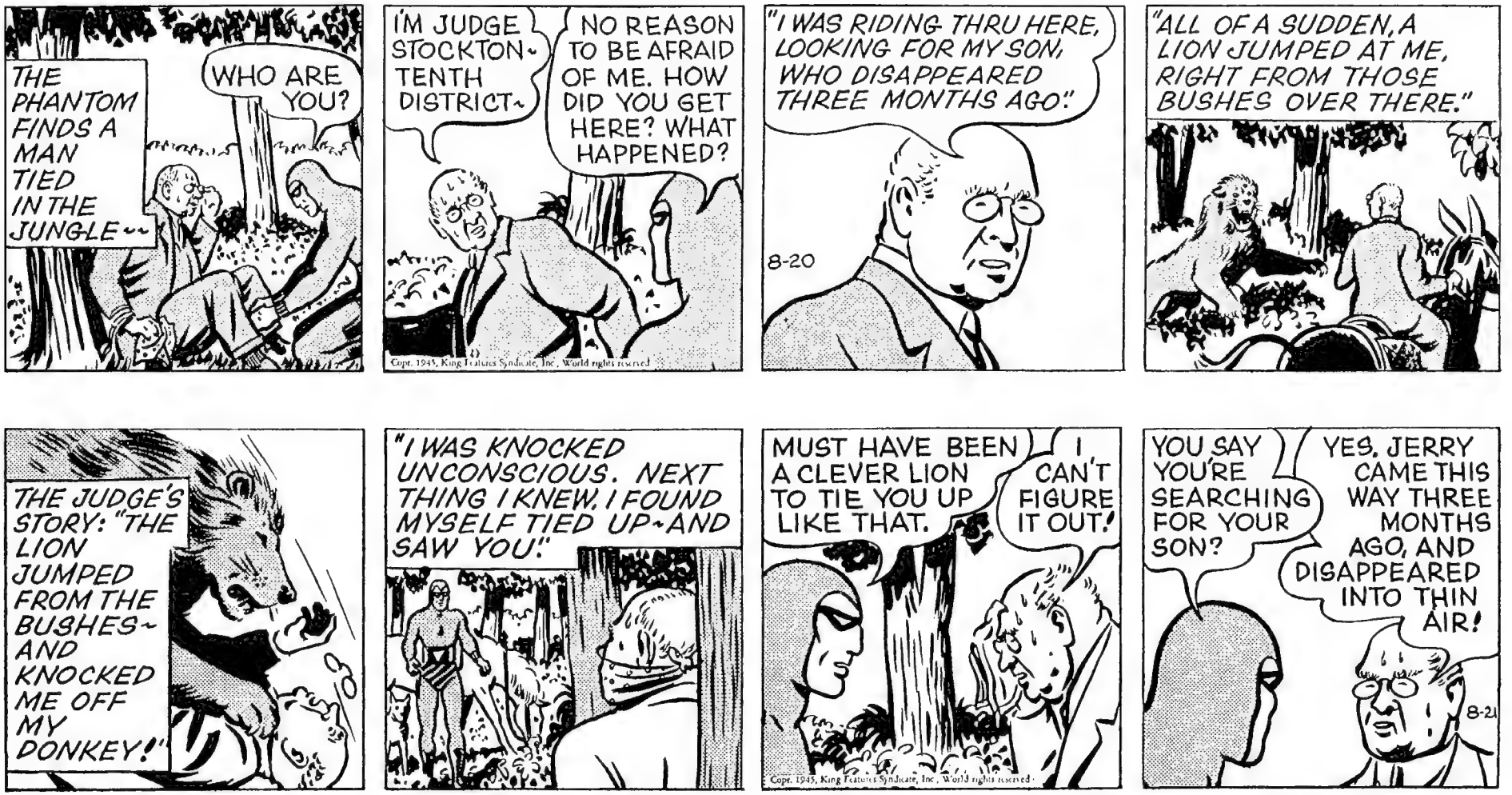
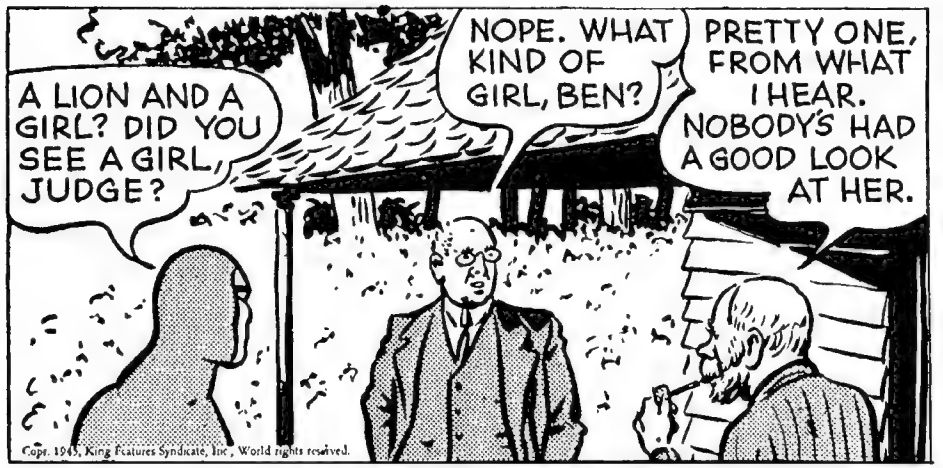

THE PHANTOM FINDS A MAN TIED IN THE JUNGLE~~
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M JUDGE STOCKTON~ TENTH DISTRICT~
NO REASON TO BE AFRAID OF ME. HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WHAT HAPPENED?
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
"I WAS RIDING THRU HERE, LOOKING FOR MY SON, WHO DISAPPEARED THREE MONTHS AGO."
8-20
"ALL OF A SUDDEN, A LION JUMPED AT ME, RIGHT FROM THOSE BUSHES OVER THERE."
THE JUDGE'S STORY: "THE LION JUMPED FROM THE BUSHES~ AND KNOCKED ME OFF MY DONKEY!"
"I WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS. NEXT THING I KNEW, I FOUND MYSELF TIED UP~AND SAW YOU."
MUST HAVE BEEN A CLEVER LION TO TIE YOU UP LIKE THAT.
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
YOU SAY YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR YOUR SON?
YES, JERRY CAME THIS WAY THREE MONTHS AGO, AND DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!
8-21

SADDLE POUCHES EMPTY-ALL MY SUPPLIES ARE GONE!
THE LION MUST HAVE TAKEN THEM.
A LION WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN CANNED GOODS!
NOT WITHOUT A CAN OPENER.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
TRADER BEN WARNED ME AGAINST THIS ROUTE. HE SAID A DOZEN TRAVELERS HAD BEEN WAYLAID.
WE'D BETTER TALK TO TRADER BEN.
WAS THAT A SILVERY TINKLE OF LAUGHTER COMING FROM THE DEPTH OF THE JUNGLE- OR DID THE PHANTOM ONLY IMAGINE IT?
8-22
WELL, AS I LIVE AND BREATHE! THE PHANTOM!
HELLO, BEN.
HAIN'T SEEN YOU IN THESE WOODS FER YEARS! WHAT BRINGS YOU?
FOUND THE JUDGE TRUSSED UP LIKE A PIG READY FOR MARKET.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
LION JUMPED ME, BEN- THEN SOMEBODY HIJACKED MY SUPPLIES
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU, JUDGE. HAPPENED A DOZEN TIMES THE LAST YEAR.
ALWAYS THE SAME STORY. A LION... AND A GIRL.
A GIRL? THE JUDGE DIDN'T MENTION A GIRL!
8-23


A LION AND A GIRL? DID YOU SEE A GIRL, JUDGE?
NOPE. WHAT KIND OF GIRL, BEN?
PRETTY ONE, FROM WHAT I HEAR. NOBODY'S HAD A GOOD LOOK AT HER.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

MIND IF I BORROW SOME SUPPLIES AND CLOTHES, BEN? MAYBE I CAN TRAP THIS MYSTERIOUS BANDIT.
HELP YOUR-SELF.

MY TRADE'S FALLIN' OFF. NOBODY'LL COME THIS WAY NO MORE. WISH YOU LUCK.
I'LL DO MY BEST, BEN. THIS IS A STRANGE ONE.
B-24

A LION AND A GIRL~ BANDITS? SOUNDS LIKE SOME~ BODY'S BEEN IMAGINING THINGS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HERO? SMELL SOME~ THING? I DON'T SEE A THING.
B-25

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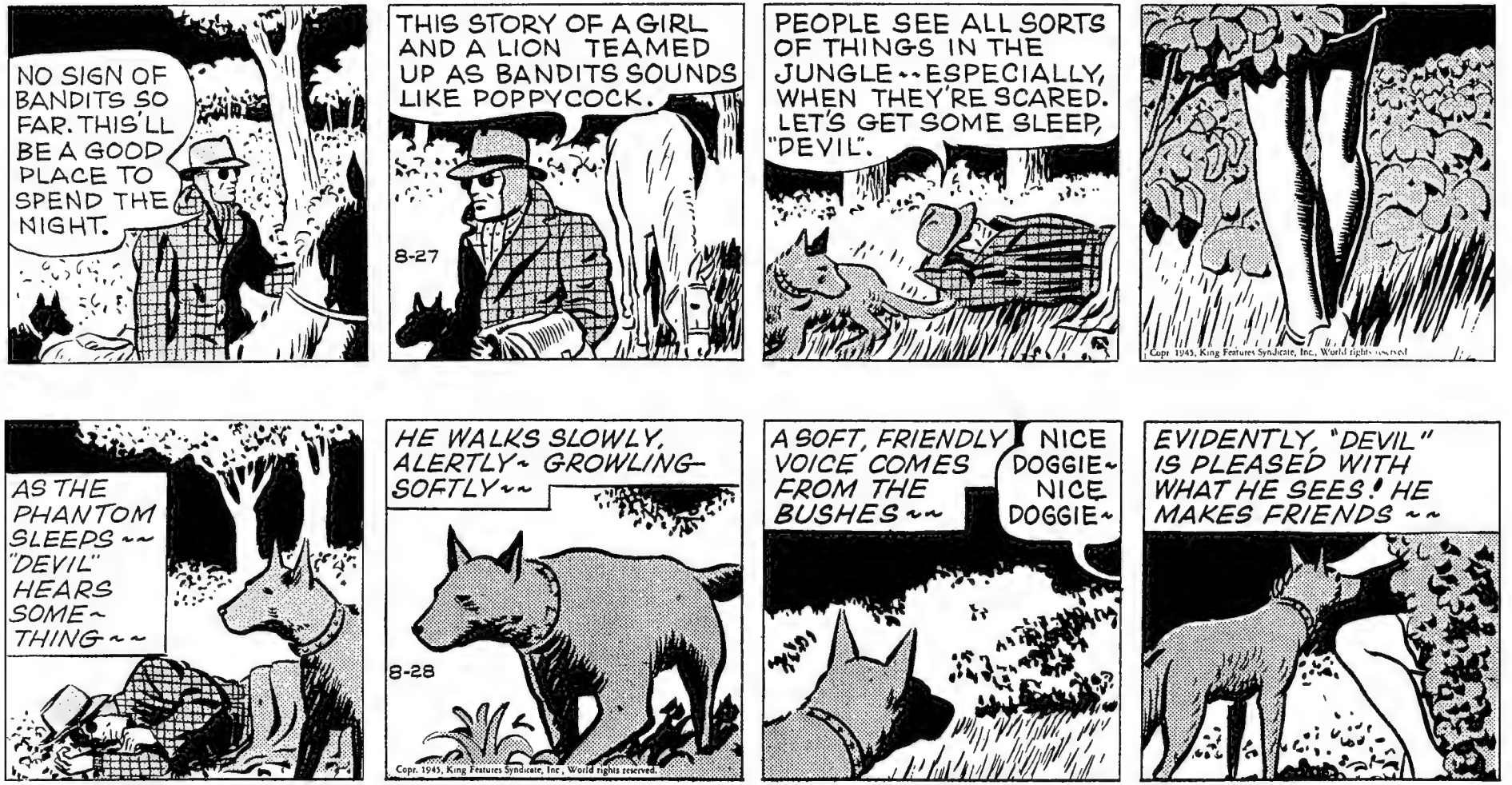

NO SIGN OF BANDITS SO FAR. THIS'LL BE A GOOD PLACE TO SPEND THE NIGHT.
THIS STORY OF A GIRL AND A LION TEAMED UP AS BANDITS SOUNDS LIKE POPPYCOCK.
8-27
PEOPLE SEE ALL SORTS OF THINGS IN THE JUNGLE -- ESPECIALLY, WHEN THEY'RE SCARED. LET'S GET SOME SLEEP, "DEVIL".
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
AS THE PHANTOM SLEEPS -- "DEVIL" HEARS SOME-THING --
HE WALKS SLOWLY, ALERTLY - GROWLING-SOFTLY --
8-28
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
A SOFT, FRIENDLY VOICE COMES FROM THE BUSHES --
NICE DOGGIE - NICE DOGGIE -
EVIDENTLY, "DEVIL" IS PLEASED WITH WHAT HE SEES! HE MAKES FRIENDS --

AS THE PHANTOM SLEEPS ~~ IN THE QUIET JUNGLE ~~
8-29
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
GOODBYE, NICE DOGGIE ~~
UMM ~ DAWN. I SLEPT LIKE A LOG ~~
HEY ~~ I'VE BEEN ROBBED!
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc, World rights reserved
SMALL FOOTPRINTS ~~ MAYBE I CAN FOLLOW THEM ~~
8-30
THEY LEAD THIS WAY. FINE WATCHDOG YOU TURNED OUT TO BE, "DEVIL"!

WONDER WHAT OUR "VISITOR" OF LAST NIGHT LOOKED LIKE? IF YOU COULD ONLY TALK, "DEVIL!"

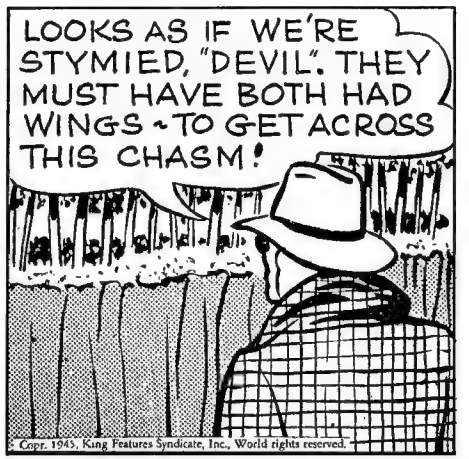
TRAIL STOPS HERE ~~ FROM THE LOOKS OF THE BARK, OUR "VISITOR" WENT UP THIS TREE.
8-31

YEP ~ STEPPED ON THAT LEAF ~ MUST HAVE CLIMBED OUT ON THAT BRANCH ~~

AND THEN SWUNG OVER TO THAT TREE! WHAT ARE WE TRAILING? A MONKEY, OR A BIRD?
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

THEN ~ OUR "VISITOR" DROPPED DOWN HERE ~~
9-1

THE SMALL FOOTPRINTS END HERE. HMM ~~ WHAT'S THIS? LION PRINTS AS WELL!


LOOKS AS IF WE'RE STYMIED, "DEVIL". THEY MUST HAVE BOTH HAD WINGS ~ TO GET ACROSS THIS CHASM!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

ONCE MORE, HE HEARS THAT FAINT TINKLING-LAUGHTER ~ OR IS IT JUST HIS IMAGINATION?

THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO TRADER BEN'S--
WELL? FIND THE BANDITS?
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
NO. I WAS ROBBED WHILE I SLEPT. TRAILED THE ROBBER AS FAR AS I COULD-THEN LOST THE TRAIL.
SEE THE LION?
NO, SAW SOME LION TRACKS. THAT'S ALL.
IF THEY CAN OUTWIT YOU LOOKS AS IF WE'D ALL BETTER GIVE UP.
I'M NOT QUITTING. GIVE ME SOME MORE SUPPLIES. I'M GOING BACK AND TRY AGAIN.
9-3
NO, JUDGE. I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING OF YOUR SON.
HERE'S A LETTER HE SENT ME- AND HIS PICTURE.
"JERRY DISAPPEARED IN THE WOODS ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO."
"ABOUT A MONTH AGO, I GOT THIS LETTER FROM HIM. A HUNTER FOUND IT POSTED ON THE TRAIL, AND BROUGHT IT TO ME".
Dont worry about me Dad. Im O.K. Jerry
9-4
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM, BUT I--I'VE BEEN SORT OF AFRAID THAT HE MIGHT BE THE BANDIT!

HOW TALL IS YOUR SON, JUDGE?
OVER SIX FEET.

THE BANDIT FOOTPRINTS I SAW WERE MADE BY A SMALL PERSON. NOT YOUR SON. IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, I'LL FIND HIM.

I'M OFF FOR ANOTHER TRY AT THE MYSTERIOUS BANDIT, BEN.
GOOD LUCK.
9-5

THE BANDIT'S NEVER KILLED ANYONE YET~ BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME~~
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THIS IS ALL MIXED UP. THE JUDGE'S SON~~ MISSING. THE~~

WHOA, HERO~~ WHAT'S THE MATTER?
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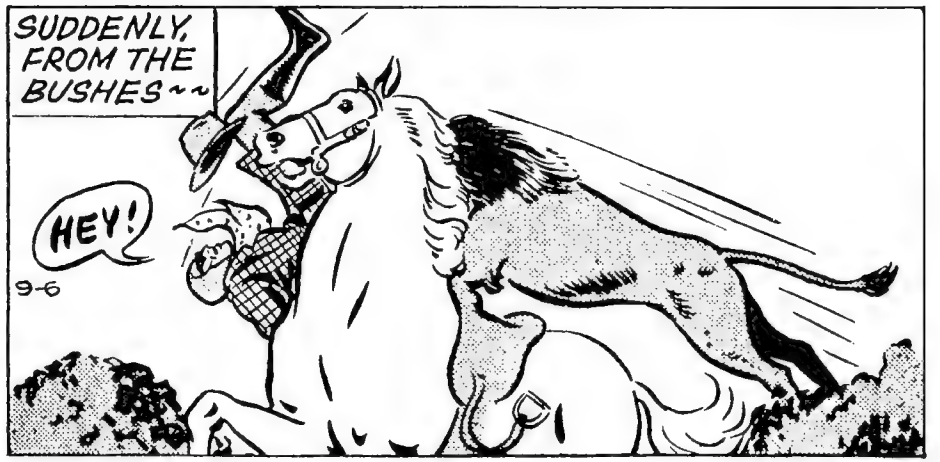
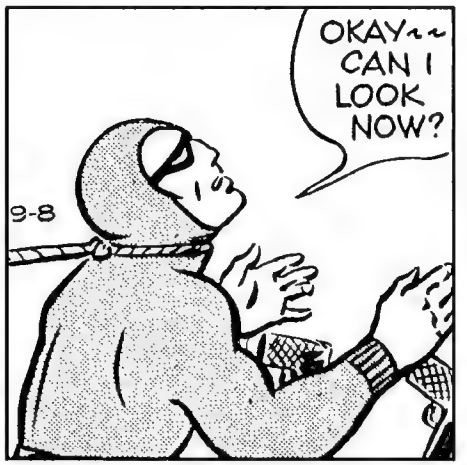

SUDDENLY, FROM THE BUSHES~~
HEY!
9-6

THE PHANTOM IS KNOCKED OFF HERO BY THE LION'S LEAP~~
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

AS THE PHANTOM AIMS AT THE CROUCHING LION~
IT'S YOU OR ME, PAL~~ AND IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ME~~!

SUDDENLY, A FLYING-NOOSE, THROWN FROM BEHIND ~ TIGHTENS AROUND HIS THROAT~~!
9-7

DROP YOUR GUNS. I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.
AS THE PHANTOM IS ABOUT TO SHOOT THE CROUCHING LION, A NOOSE FLIES OVER HIS HEAD~~


OKAY~~ CAN I LOOK NOW?
9-8

WELL~~ I'LL BE~~!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

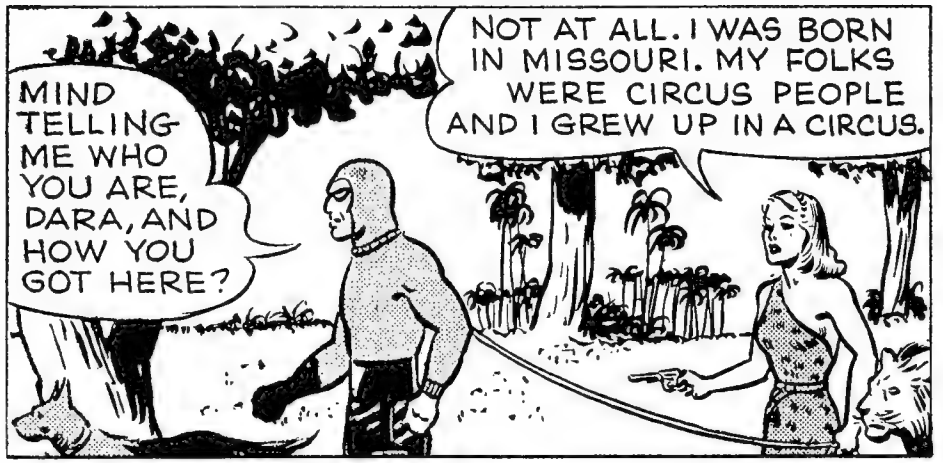
THE PHANTOM FACES HIS CAPTOR, AND IT'S HARD TO TELL WHICH ONE IS THE MORE SURPRISED!
9-10
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE TRADER I "VISITED" LAST NIGHT. CAN YOU BE THE PHANTOM?

YES, I'M THE PHANTOM. WHO ARE YOU?
THE FEW WHO'VE SEEN ME CALL ME "THE WILD GIRL". MY NAME IS DARA.
9-11
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

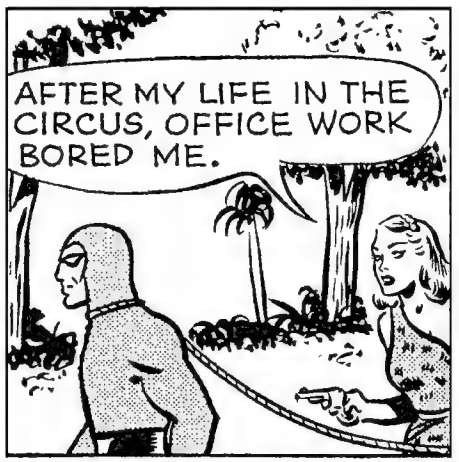
HE-SEEMS RATHER, FRIENDLY.
OH, YES. TABBY WOULDN'T HURT A FLY- UNLESS I TOLD HIM TO.

TABBY, EH? NOW THAT YOU'VE CAPTURED ME, I SUPPOSE YOU'LL TIE ME UP AND LEAVE ME HERE.
OH, NO! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!


MIND TELLING ME WHO YOU ARE, DARA, AND HOW YOU GOT HERE?
NOT AT ALL. I WAS BORN IN MISSOURI. MY FOLKS WERE CIRCUS PEOPLE AND I GREW UP IN A CIRCUS.

"I WAS AN ANIMAL TRAINER. IT WAS A THRILLING LIFE, AND I LOVED IT! BUT TIMES WERE BAD~~"

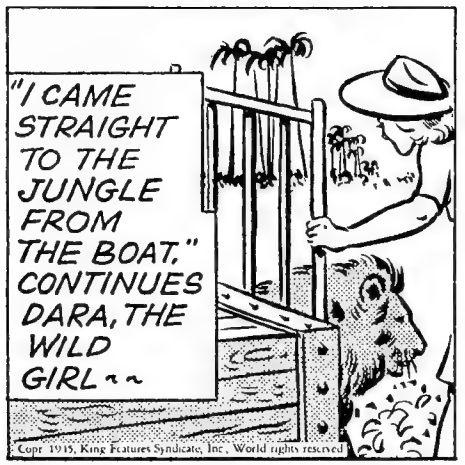
"~THE CIRCUS FOLDED AND I WOUND UP AS A STENO IN AN OFFICE. I WAS BORED TO DEATH~"
9-12
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.


AFTER MY LIFE IN THE CIRCUS, OFFICE WORK BORED ME.

"ALL THAT INDOOR LIFE, WORK, PARTIES, AND THE REST, SICKENED ME! I WANTED TO BE OUTDOORS AGAIN!"

"I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER. I DECIDED TO LEAVE, AND TAKE TABBY WITH ME. I'D RAISED HIM FROM A CUB".

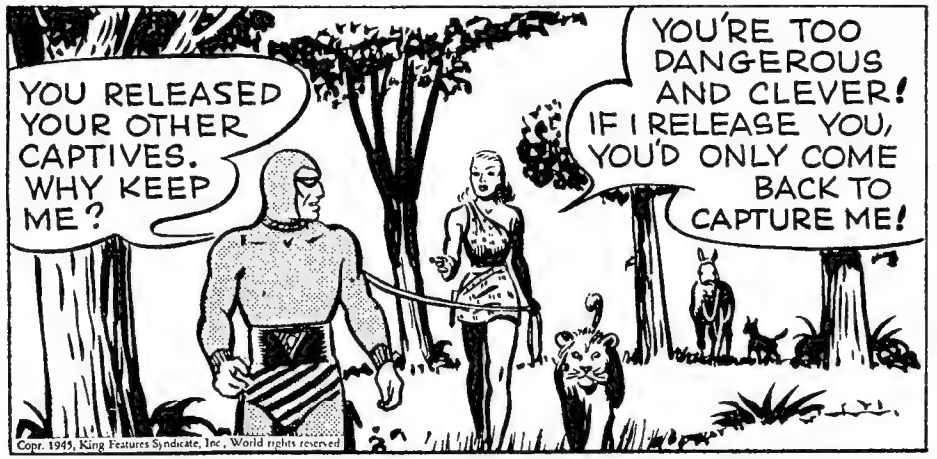
"I'D ALWAYS DREAMED OF SEEING THE JUNGLES! I DECIDED THAT'S WHERE I'D GO ~ AND I DID!"
9-13
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.


"I CAME STRAIGHT TO THE JUNGLE FROM THE BOAT." CONTINUES DARA, THE WILD GIRL~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

"I GOT RID OF MY CIVILIZED CLOTHES. NO MORE TYPEWRITER, NO MORE .. DICTATION! THIS WAS THE LIFE FOR ME!"

"MY TRAINING WITH GUN, ROPE, AND ANIMALS MADE THE JUNGLE LIFE EASY FOR ME. I "BORROW" SUPPLIES FROM PASSING TRAVELERS"~~
9-14

AND THAT'S THAT!
WELL, I'LL BE DARNED!


YOU RELEASED YOUR OTHER CAPTIVES. WHY KEEP ME?
YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS AND CLEVER! IF I RELEASE YOU, YOU'D ONLY COME BACK TO CAPTURE ME!
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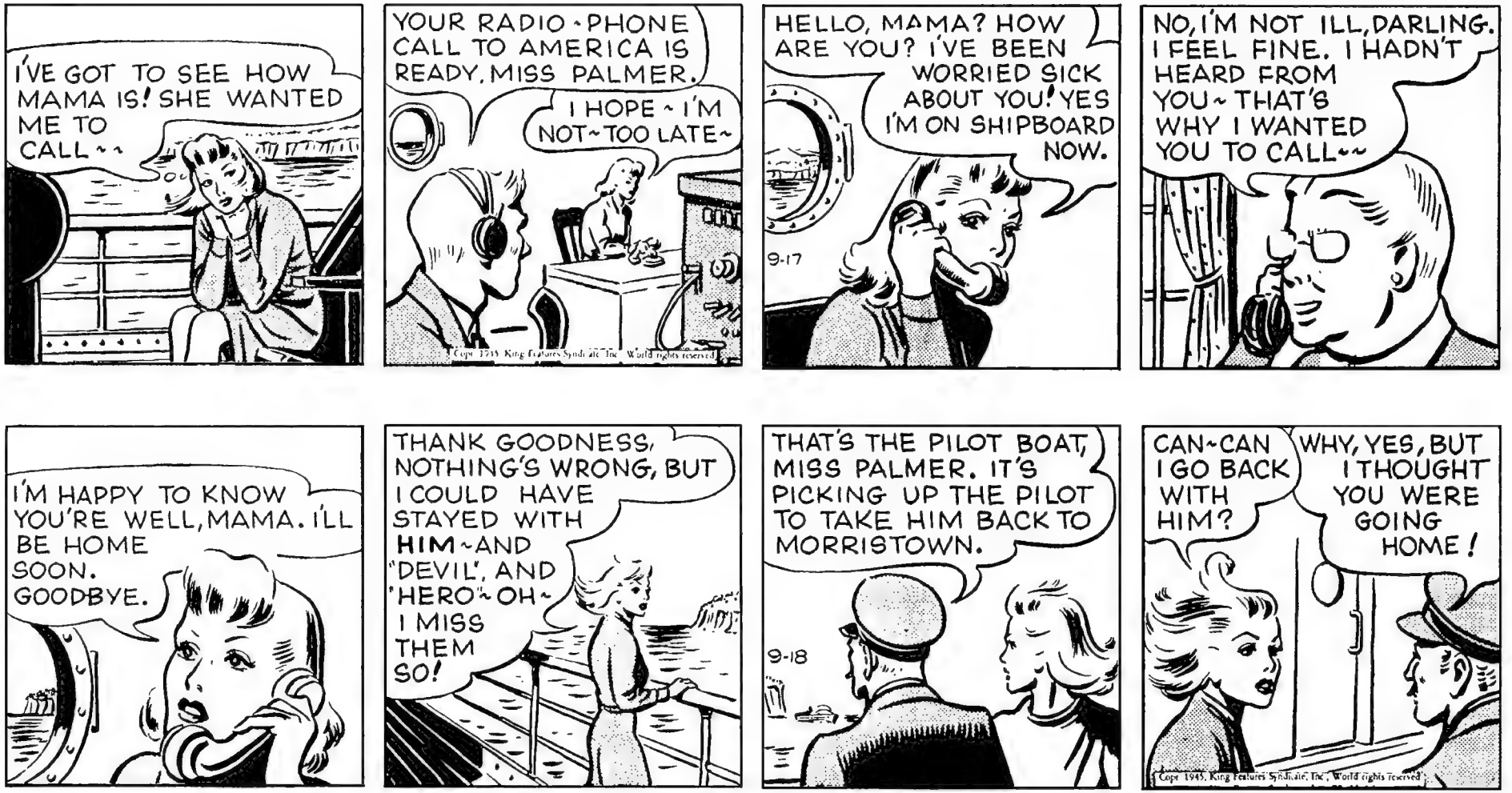
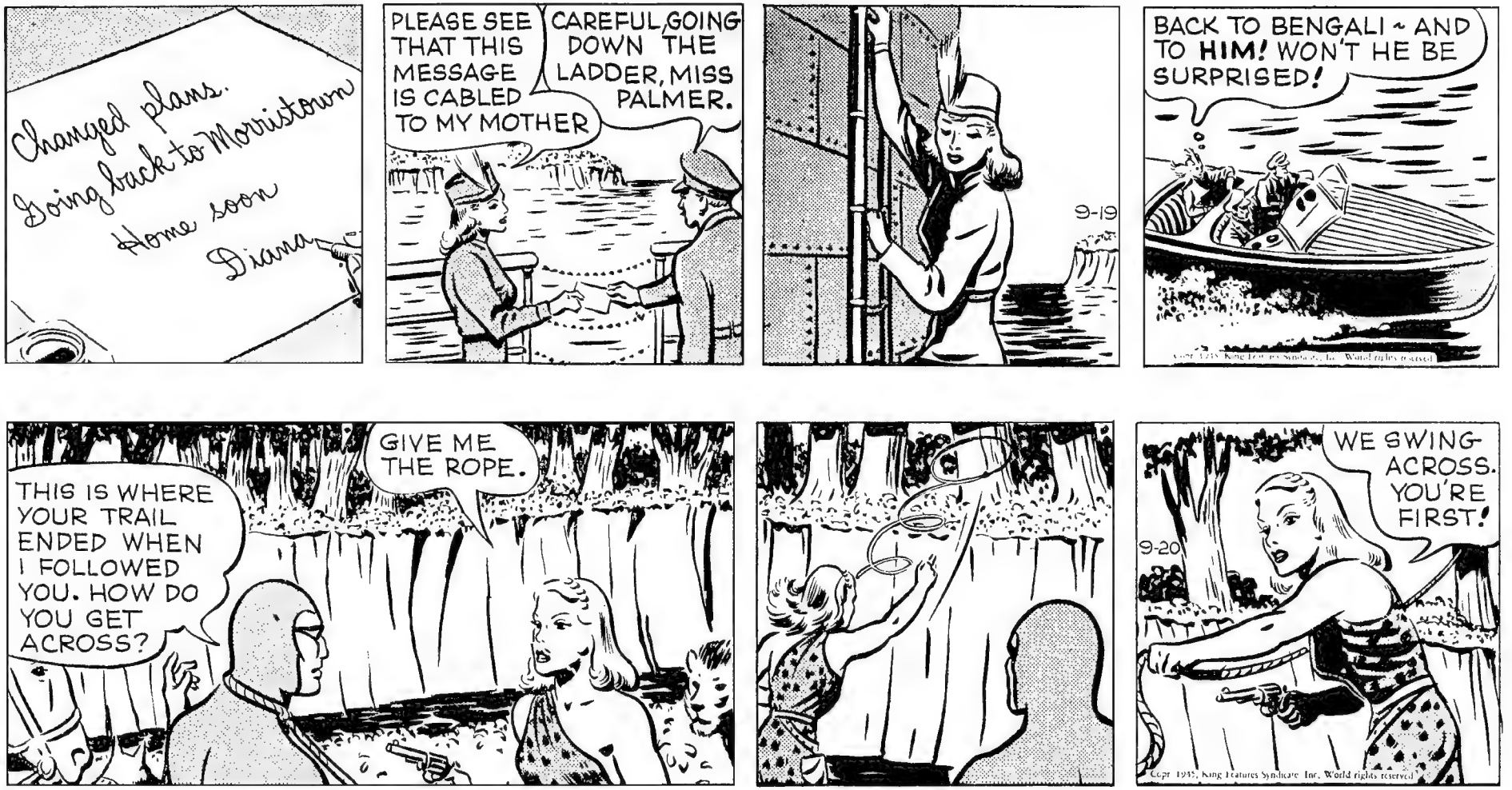
BESIDES, IT'S TIME I GOT A HUSBAND, AND IT ISN'T EVERY GIRL WHO CAN ROPE THE ONE SHE WANTS!
9-15

HUSBAND~~!


I'VE GOT TO SEE HOW MAMA IS! SHE WANTED ME TO CALL~~
YOUR RADIO-PHONE CALL TO AMERICA IS READY, MISS PALMER.
I HOPE ~ I'M NOT~TOO LATE~
Copr. 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
HELLO, MAMA? HOW ARE YOU? I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU! YES I'M ON SHIPBOARD NOW.
9-17
NO, I'M NOT ILL, DARLING. I FEEL FINE. I HADN'T HEARD FROM YOU~THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO CALL~~
I'M HAPPY TO KNOW YOU'RE WELL, MAMA. I'LL BE HOME SOON. GOODBYE.
THANK GOODNESS, NOTHING'S WRONG, BUT I COULD HAVE STAYED WITH HIM~AND 'DEVIL', AND 'HERO'~OH~ I MISS THEM SO!
THAT'S THE PILOT BOAT, MISS PALMER. IT'S PICKING UP THE PILOT TO TAKE HIM BACK TO MORRISTOWN.
9-18
CAN~CAN I GO BACK WITH HIM?
WHY, YES, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING HOME!
Copr. 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.


Changed plans.
Going back to Morristown
Home soon
Diana
PLEASE SEE THAT THIS MESSAGE IS CABLED TO MY MOTHER
CAREFUL, GOING DOWN THE LADDER, MISS PALMER.
9-19
BACK TO BENGALI ~ AND TO HIM! WON'T HE BE SURPRISED!
THIS IS WHERE YOUR TRAIL ENDED WHEN I FOLLOWED YOU. HOW DO YOU GET ACROSS?
GIVE ME THE ROPE.
9-20
WE SWING ACROSS. YOU'RE FIRST!
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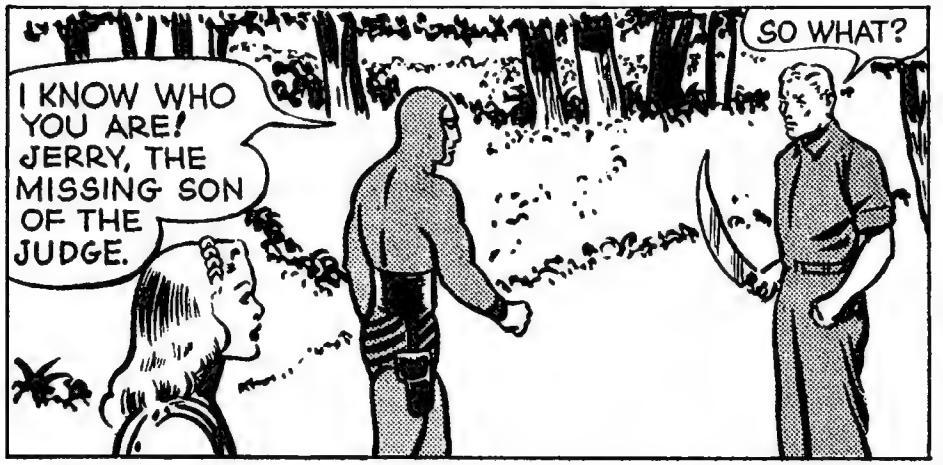
HOW ABOUT "HERO" AND "DEVIL"?
THEY'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE. SWING OVER~
ALMOST HOME!
9-21
Copr 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
WAIT THERE, FELLAS~~
BUT "HERO" AND "DEVIL" HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS ABOUT THAT~~
Copr 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
OH, WHAT MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS! JUST LIKE THEIR MASTER!
WHO'S THIS?
9-22
CONT'D.


I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! JERRY, THE MISSING SON OF THE JUDGE.
SO WHAT?

WHY DID YOU BRING HIM HERE?
BECAUSE I WANTED TO!

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO HOME! ANYTIME, YOU WANT. I'VE TOLD YOU THAT A DOZEN TIMES!
9-24
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

JERRY, DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR DAD'S WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU?
I WROTE HIM I WAS OKAY. NOW~ LOOK! DARA'S MY GIRL! KEEP AWAY FROM HER!

WHERE'D YOU GET THE IDEA I WAS YOUR GIRL? THAT NEVER WAS TRUE~AND NEVER WILL BE!
9-25

HMM ~~ LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE AHEAD.
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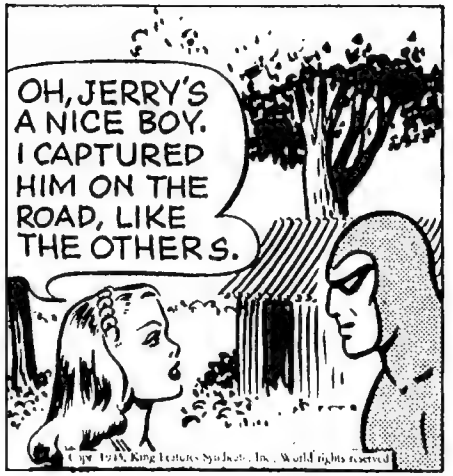

OH, JERRY'S A NICE BOY. I CAPTURED HIM ON THE ROAD, LIKE THE OTHERS.

"INSTEAD OF BEING FRIGHTENED, HE TRIED TO KISS ME! HE SAID IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT".
9-26

"HE FOLLOWED ME LIKE A PUPPY. SO I LET HIM STAY HERE, AND DO THE HEAVY WORK AROUND THE PLACE."

BUT I DON'T WANT TO MARRY HIM. HE'S SUCH A BOY! NOT A MAN ~~ LIKE YOU.

DARA, HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS THE PHANTOM?
ANYBODY WHO'S LIVED IN THE WOODS HAS HEARD OF YOU!

HOW YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH OF TEN TIGERS ~ YES, I QUITE BELIEVE IT.

I WONDERED HOW IT'D BE TO BE IN LOVE WITH A MAN FOUR CENTURIES OLD! YOU'RE NOT REALLY A FREAK LIKE THAT, ARE YOU?
9-27

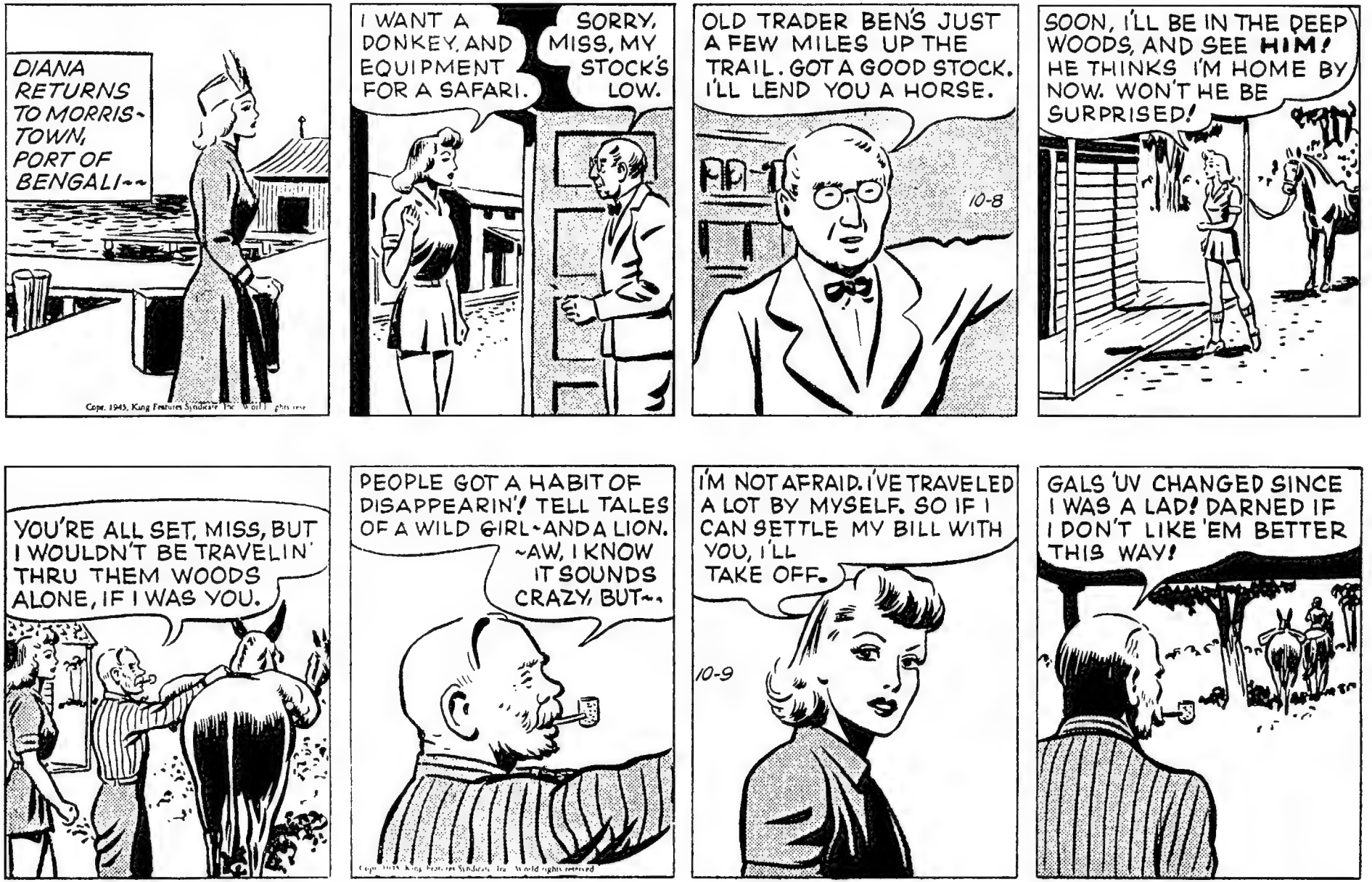
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MY WOMAN'S INSTINCT TELLS ME ~~ NO!

DON'T YOU EVER~~ THINK ABOUT LOVE?
OFTEN, DARA. YOU SEE, I HAVE A GIRL.
NATURALLY, EVERY HE~ MAN HAS A GIRL, SOME~ PLACE, BUT YOU'LL SOON FORGET HER.
I DOUBT IT. YOU'RE QUITE A GIRL, DARA. BUT SO IS MY SWEETHEART.
OUT OF SIGHT~~ OUT OF MIND!
9-28
GOODNIGHT~~ AND DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE, BECAUSE JERRY WILL BE ON GUARD.
EVERYTHING WAS GOING SWELL, 'TIL HE GOT HERE! DARA WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME~ NOW HE'S RUINED IT.~~
9-29
CONT'D.

AS JERRY STANDS POISED, WITH HIS BIG KNIFE, HE HESITATES~
SUDDENLY, THE "SLEEPING" PHANTOM MOVES LIKE FORKED LIGHTNING~~ AND LANDS LIKE A THUNDERBOLT!
YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D GO TO SLEEP WITH YOU ON GUARD~NOT AFTER YOU GLARED AT ME ALL EVENING~~!
SORRY TO HIT YOU SO HARD, JERRY, BUT THAT WAS A MIGHTY BIG KNIFE.
10-1
I DON'T THINK~I REALLY COULD HAVE KILLED YOU. I'M NOT A MURDERER~ BUT I'M SO DARNED MUCH IN LOVE WITH DARA~~
EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE~TIL YOU CAME. BUT I GUESS SHE'S RIGHT. YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM.
GET THIS STRAIGHT, JERRY. I'VE GOT A GIRL. I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH DARA.
10-2
DARA'S A WILD CAT. IF YOU MARRY HER, I WISH YOU LUCK. YOU'LL NEED IT!

YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH HIM LAST NIGHT ~ ABOUT ME!
NAW, I JUST WALKED INTO A DOOR IN THE DARK.
YOU AND JERRY WERE FIGHTING OVER ME LAST NIGHT
WE HAD A LITTLE SKIRMISH. ALL SETTLED NOW.
WONDERFUL! TWO STRONG MEN IN THE JUNGLE, FIGHTING OVER ME ~~!
10-3
JUST THE WAY I USED TO DREAM IT WOULD BE WHEN I WAS A STENO~~
OH.~
HMM ~~ DID I SCARE YOU?
I BROUGHT ALONG A FULL SUPPLY OF COSMETICS.
REALLY ROUGHING IT, AREN'T YOU, DARA?
JUST BECAUSE I LIVE IN THE JUNGLE DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO LOOK LIKE A FRUMP.
10-4
SHE'S QUITE A GIRL.
YEAH ~~ SHE SURE IS!

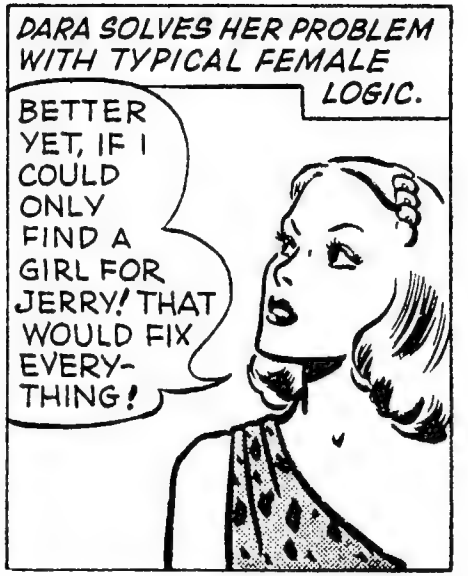
SURPRISE?
I SHOULD SAY SO, DARA!
10-5
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I GET TIRED OF RAGS, AND WANT TO GET DRESSED UP. THIS IS ONE OF THEM.
DOESN'T THAT MOON MAKE YOU FEEL ROMANTIC?
MAKES ME SLEEPY. I'M TURNING IN, DARA. GOODNIGHT.
PLAYING HARD TO GET. HE'LL CHANGE HIS MIND SOON! THEN I'LL BE THE WIFE OF THE PHANTOM- QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE!
DON'T YOU EVER SLEEP, JERRY?
IN THE DAY-TIME. I'M SUPPOSED TO GUARD YOU AT NIGHT.
GET SOME SLEEP. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ESCAPING. I LIKE IT HERE.
OKAY. PERSONALLY, I'D JUST AS SOON HAVE YOU ESCAPE-THEN DARA'D NOTICE I WAS STILL ALIVE.
HE FORGETS HIS LITTLE DARA IS A BANDIT. WHEN I LEAVE, IT WILL BE TO TAKE HER TO JAIL! BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT-- YET.
10-6


DIANA RETURNS TO MORRISTOWN, PORT OF BENGALI--
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I WANT A DONKEY, AND EQUIPMENT FOR A SAFARI.
SORRY, MISS, MY STOCK'S LOW.
OLD TRADER BEN'S JUST A FEW MILES UP THE TRAIL. GOT A GOOD STOCK. I'LL LEND YOU A HORSE.
10-8
SOON, I'LL BE IN THE DEEP WOODS, AND SEE HIM! HE THINKS I'M HOME BY NOW. WON'T HE BE SURPRISED!
YOU'RE ALL SET, MISS, BUT I WOULDN'T BE TRAVELIN' THRU THEM WOODS ALONE, IF I WAS YOU.
PEOPLE GOT A HABIT OF DISAPPEARIN'! TELL TALES OF A WILD GIRL-AND A LION.
-AW, I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT--.
I'M NOT AFRAID. I'VE TRAVELED A LOT BY MYSELF. SO IF I CAN SETTLE MY BILL WITH YOU, I'LL TAKE OFF.
10-9
GALS 'UV CHANGED SINCE I WAS A LAD! DARNED IF I DON'T LIKE 'EM BETTER THIS WAY!

STOP WORRYING, JERRY. I TOLD YOU DARA'S YOUR GIRL!
I WISH SHE'D LOOK AT ME LIKE SHE LOOKS AT YOU.

SO THAT'S IT. HE THINKS I LOVE JERRY AND JERRY LOVES ME.

AND HE'S TOO MUCH OF A GENTLEMAN TO COME BETWEEN US. IF I COULD ONLY GET RID OF JERRY~ BUT HE'S SO HANDY AROUND HERE~~~
10-10

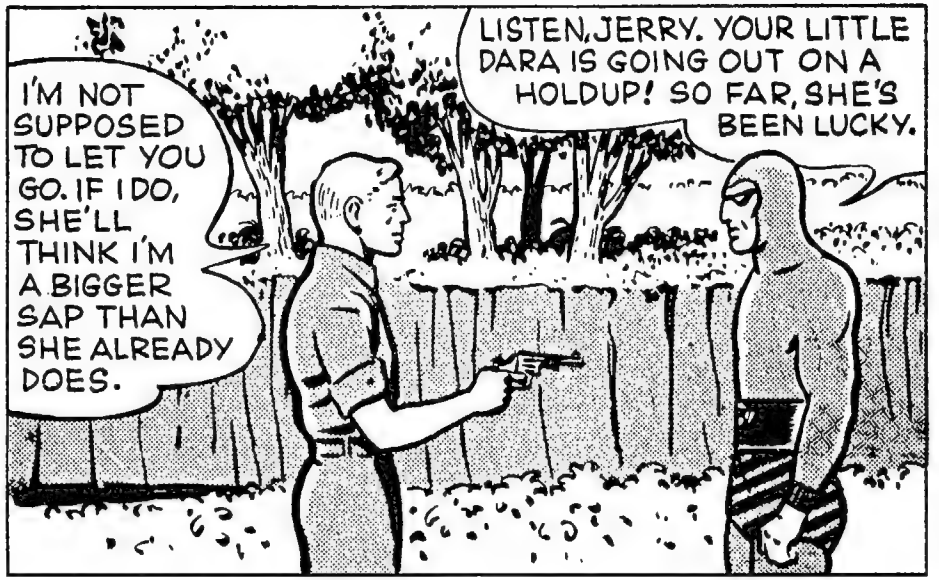

DARA SOLVES HER PROBLEM WITH TYPICAL FEMALE LOGIC.
BETTER YET, IF I COULD ONLY FIND A GIRL FOR JERRY! THAT WOULD FIX EVERY-THING!

COME ON, TABBY. WE'RE GOING TO MARKET!

I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN "PICK UP" SOME SUPPLIES. WE NEED SOME CANNED GOODS.

JERRY, SEE THAT HE STAYS HERE!

I'M GOING AFTER HER.
AW, YOU CAN'T. YOU HEARD HER, YOURSELF.
10-11


I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LET YOU GO. IF I DO, SHE'LL THINK I'M A BIGGER SAP THAN SHE ALREADY DOES.
LISTEN, JERRY. YOUR LITTLE DARA IS GOING OUT ON A HOLDUP! SO FAR, SHE'S BEEN LUCKY.

SHE HASN'T KILLED ANYONE, BUT SHE MIGHT THIS TIME ~OR ANYTIME. I'M GOING TO SEE THAT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
10-12
Copr. 1945 King Features Syndicate Inc., World rights reserved.

I'M GOING! GO AHEAD AND SHOOT, IF YOU WANT TO!

HE'S RIGHT. I DON'T WANT DARA TO KILL ANYBODY~~ EVEN ACCIDENTALLY. IF HE CAN STOP HER~~~

AS DIANA RIDES THE JUNGLE TRAIL~~
A DAY AND A NIGHT~ AND I'LL BE IN THE DEEP WOODS!
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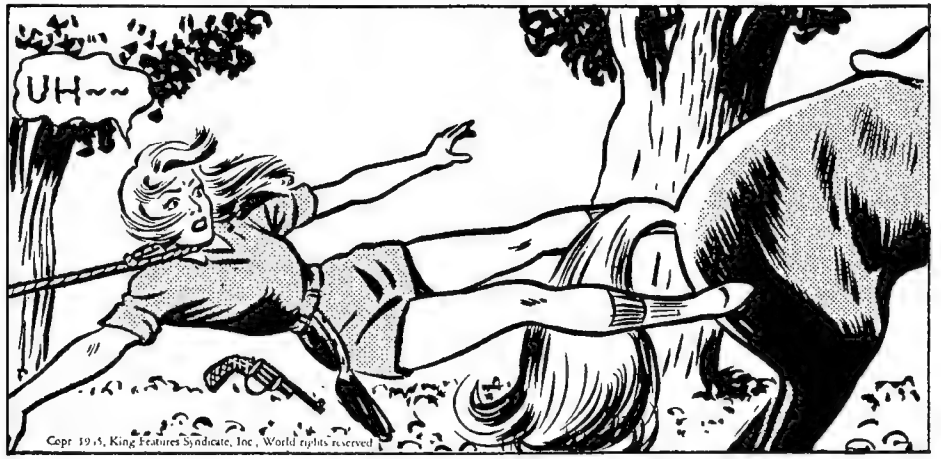
A GIRL!
10-13

BLACKIE SMELLS LION!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BLACKIE?
A PRETTY GIRL, TOO! IF I CAN CATCH HER - AND BRING HER BACK FOR JERRY - -!
THAT WILL PROVE TO THE PHANTOM THAT I DON'T LOVE JERRY - -
10-15
GO GET HER, TABBY!
TABBY LEAPS AT DIANA'S HORSE - BUT SHE PULLS HIM ASIDE IN TIME!
A LION
10-16
DIANA'S SHOT MANY THINGS BEFORE - - INCLUDING LIONS!
SHE - - SHOT - - TABBY!


UH~~
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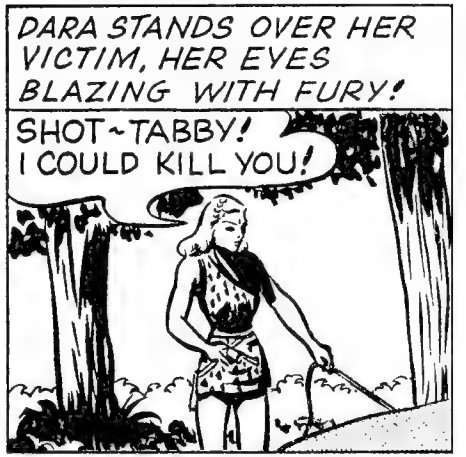
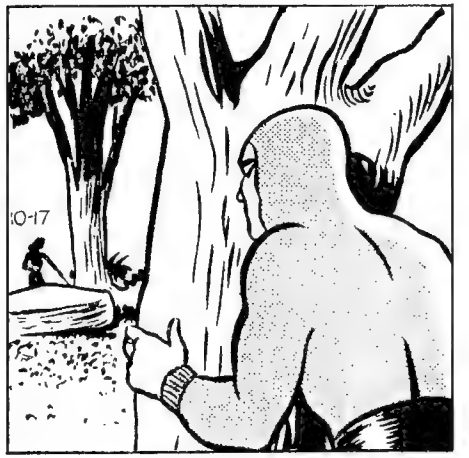

DARA STANDS OVER HER VICTIM, HER EYES BLAZING WITH FURY!
SHOT~TABBY! I COULD KILL YOU!


10-17

I OUGHT TO SHOOT YOU, BUT~ BUT I JUST GUESS I CAN'T~~
10-18

WELL~AT LEAST SHE'S NOT A KILLER. CAN'T LET HER KNOW I'M HERE, OR JERRY'LL BE IN TROUBLE WITH HER~

HMM~ LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN. WONDER WHO SHE IS~~

HE DOESN'T DREAM IT'S DIANA! HE THINKS SHE'S AN OCEAN AWAY!
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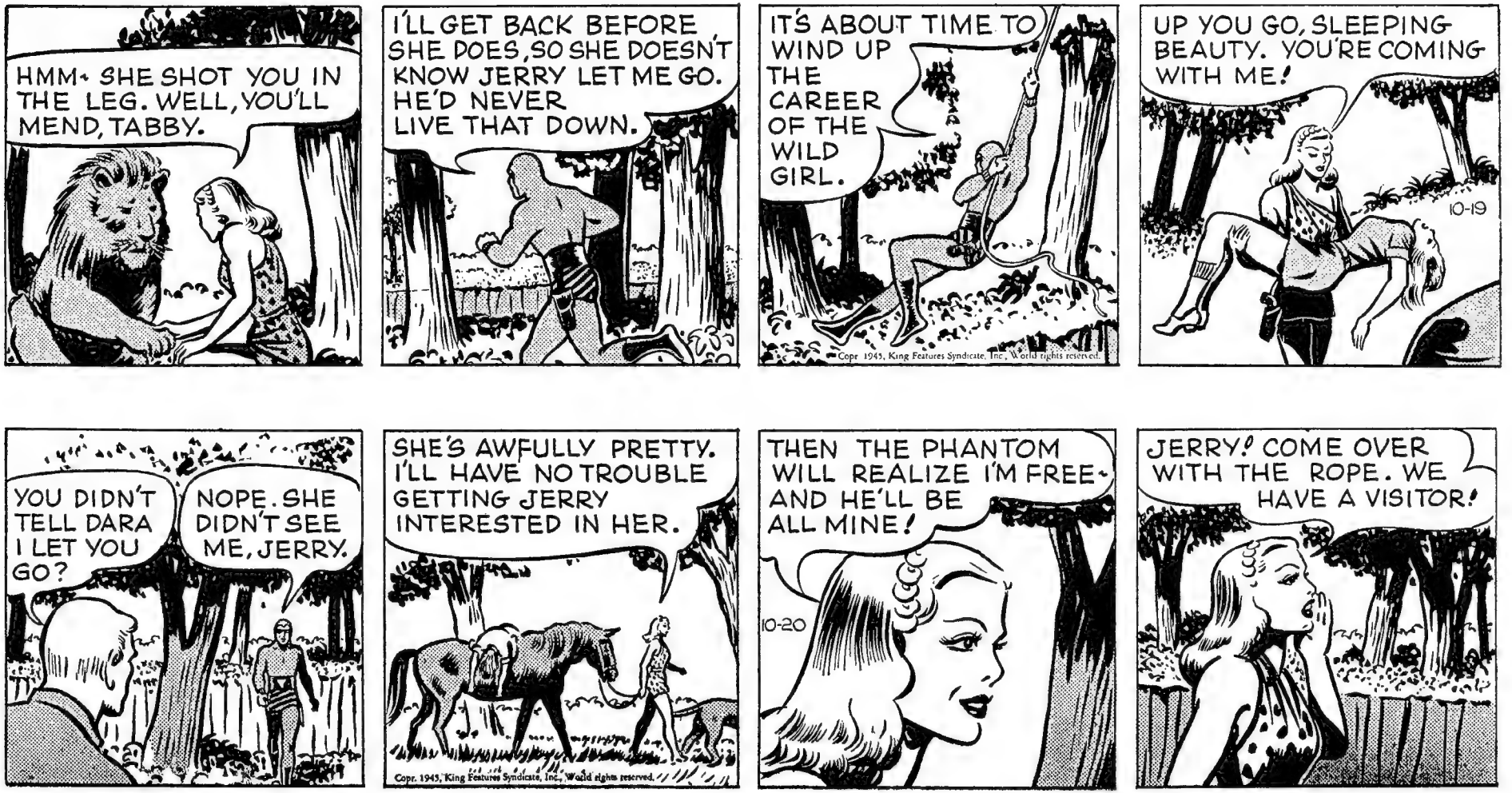

HMM. SHE SHOT YOU IN THE LEG. WELL, YOU'LL MEND, TABBY.
I'LL GET BACK BEFORE SHE DOES, SO SHE DOESN'T KNOW JERRY LET ME GO. HE'D NEVER LIVE THAT DOWN.
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO WIND UP THE CAREER OF THE WILD GIRL.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
UP YOU GO, SLEEPING BEAUTY. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
10-19
YOU DIDN'T TELL DARA I LET YOU GO?
NOPE. SHE DIDN'T SEE ME, JERRY.
SHE'S AWFULLY PRETTY. I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING JERRY INTERESTED IN HER.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THEN THE PHANTOM WILL REALIZE I'M FREE. AND HE'LL BE ALL MINE!
10-20
JERRY! COME OVER WITH THE ROPE. WE HAVE A VISITOR!

SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO WAKE UP? YOU JUST HAD A FALL
WHO ~ ARE YOU?
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

10 22

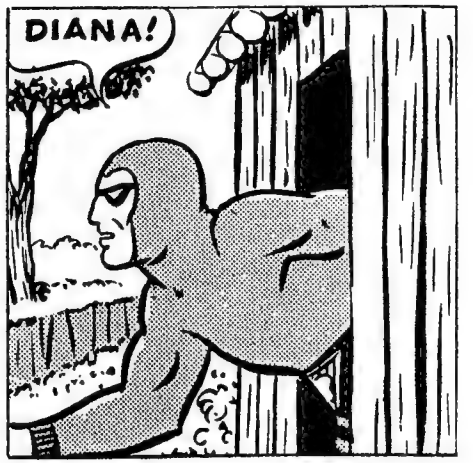
WHAT'S THIS?
THIS IS JERRY. I HOPE YOU TWO WILL BECOME GREAT FRIENDS.

WHY ON EARTH DID DARA BRING THE WOMAN HERE? MAYBE SHE WANTS A PERSONAL MAID.

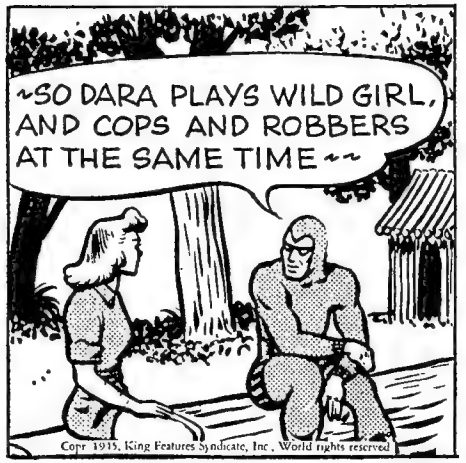
HANG ONTO JERRY, SO HE CAN TAKE YOU ACROSS.
I WILL NOT!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

YOU'LL SOON LEARN THAT NO ONE SAYS "NO" TO DARA.
WHO ~ ~ IN THE WORLD ARE YOU ~ PEOPLE ~ ?

THAT GIRL LOOKS FAMILIAR! IT CAN'T BE ~ ~ BY JOE ~ IT IS ~ ~!
10·23


DIANA!

DIANA!
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!
OH, DARLING~ EXPLAIN IT TO ME~ BEFORE I GO CRAZY!
10-24
Copr. 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
WELL, I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE!
!!
~AND AFTER I SHOT THE LION, I WAS PULLED OFF MY HORSE AND~~
I KNOW. I'LL EXPLAIN IT LATER:
DIANA, THIS IS JERRY- A NICE BOY.
WE'VE~ ~ER~ MET.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
DARA, THIS IS THE GIRL I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT. MY SWEETHEART, DIANA PALMER.
YOUR SWEETHEART!
10 25


~SO DARA PLAYS WILD GIRL, AND COPS AND ROBBERS AT THE SAME TIME~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD~I HAVE TO BRING **HER** HERE! DRAGGED HER HERE~**HIS** SWEETHEART!
10-26

AND IT'S NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT
I THINK IT'S FUNNY!

AND YOU BROUGHT **HER** FOR **ME**~SO **YOU** COULD HAVE **HIM**! I THINK IT'S~ HIL-AR-I-OUS!

BETTER KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON DIANA.
I'M NOT WORRIED. I'VE SEEN THAT DARA ISN'T A KILLER.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

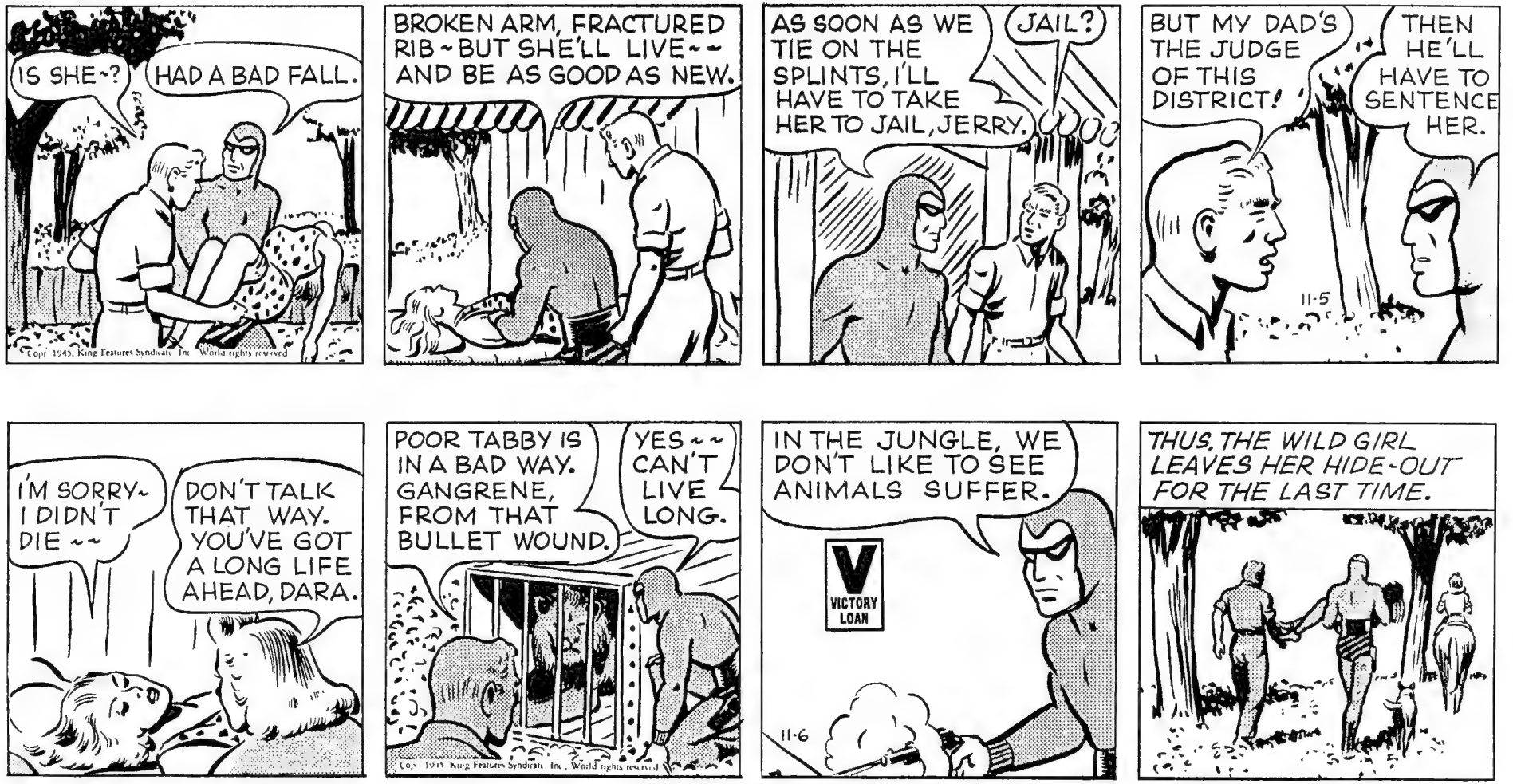
NOT FOR MONEY. BUT A JEALOUS WOMAN'LL DO ANYTHING. BESIDES, SHE FEELS SHE MADE A FOOL OF HER~SELF~WHICH SHE DID.
10-27

THE PHANTOM WATCHES. TEMPERS ARE HOT. ANY~THING CAN HAPPEN~~ AND PROBABLY WILL!
CONT'D.

WON'T YOU SEND~DIANA AWAY~~?
OF COURSE NOT, DARA.
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc World rights reserved
JERRY, COULDN'T YOU MAKE DIANA FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU?
YOU TALK LIKE A CHILD, DARA. YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU.
EVERYTHING'S GONE WRONG~ALL MY PLANS! THEY WON'T HELP ME!
10-29
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU~~~!
OH~~!
YOU~~!
I'LL FINISH YOU~~YOU!
YOU WILL~~ WILL YOU~?
10-30
Copr 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THEY'RE FIGHTING! STOP THEM!
LET THEM ALONE. DARA'S HAD A BEATING COMING TO HER FOR A LONG TIME, AND DIANA'S THE GIRL TO GIVE IT TO HER!

DIANA ENDS THE FIGHT WITH A REAL, MAN-SIZED WALLOP!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
DARA~~ DARLING~~
10-31
GO AWAY~ I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU~ OR ANY~ BODY~~
NICE GOING, CHAMP.
I FEEL FINE, MOM.
I'VE NO MORE USE FOR YOU~ OR YOUR SWEETHEART! I'VE DECIDED TO~~
DARA, THE GAME IS OVER. YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN~~ PLAYED WILD GIRL~~
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
BUT YOU'VE ALSO BEEN A BANDIT~ NOT IN FUN! I'M TAKING YOU TO A COURT OF LAW!
YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME ANYPLACE!
V VICTORY LOAN
11-1

THE PHANTOM'S HAND MOVES SWIFTLY~~
I'M GOING TO~ OU~
NO, YOU'RE NOT, DARA!
11-2
DON'T YOU HIT MY GIRL!
SHE WAS, GOING TO SHOOT, YOU FOOL!
Copr 1945 King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved
I DONT CARE! I~UH
SORRY, KID. THAT LOVE LIGHT IS BLINDING~ I KNOW~~
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME~~ NEVER!
DARA RUNS WILDLY TO THE CHASM~~
NEVER GET ME~ NEVER~NEVER~
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
DARA~ STOP!
11-3
SHE REACHES FOR THE ROPE~IN HER EXCITEMENT~ SHE SLIPS~~
CONT'D


IS SHE~?
HAD A BAD FALL.
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
BROKEN ARM, FRACTURED RIB ~ BUT SHE'LL LIVE~~ AND BE AS GOOD AS NEW.
AS SOON AS WE TIE ON THE SPLINTS, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HER TO JAIL, JERRY.
JAIL?
BUT MY DAD'S THE JUDGE OF THIS DISTRICT!
THEN HE'LL HAVE TO SENTENCE HER.
11-5
I'M SORRY~ I DIDN'T DIE ~~
DON'T TALK THAT WAY. YOU'VE GOT A LONG LIFE AHEAD, DARA.
POOR TABBY IS IN A BAD WAY. GANGRENE, FROM THAT BULLET WOUND.
YES ~~ CAN'T LIVE LONG.
IN THE JUNGLE, WE DON'T LIKE TO SEE ANIMALS SUFFER.
V
VICTORY LOAN
11-6
THUS, THE WILD GIRL LEAVES HER HIDE-OUT FOR THE LAST TIME.

NO WORD OF MY SON OR THE BANDIT YET, BEN?
NOPE, JUDGE. PHANTOM WENT TO FIND HIM. HE DISAPPEARED~ EVERYBODY DISAPPEARED.
JERRY! WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU BEEN?
Copr. 1935, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
DAD, THIS IS DARA. I KNOW SHE'S BEEN SILLY, BUT SHE DIDN'T REALLY~~
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'M AFRAID IT'S MY UNHAPPY DUTY TO EXPLAIN IT~ AND MAKE CHARGES, JUDGE. SHE'S THE BANDIT.
11-7
SHE NEVER HURT ANYBODY, DAD. WE'VE GOT MOST OF THE STUFF SHE STOLE. I'LL PAY FOR THE REST.
Copr. 1935, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
JERRY, SHE'LL HAVE TO FACE TRIAL. I'LL BE AS LENIENT AS THE LAW ALLOWS. NO MORE.
JERRY, I'VE BEEN A LITTLE FOOL~ AN IDIOT. YOU'RE A GRAND GUY~~
V VICTORY LOAN
11-8
AND I LOVE YOU. I GUESS I ALWAYS HAVE! I JUST~~ WOULDN'T ADMIT IT.
GEE WHIZ, DARA

DARA, YOU HAVE PLEADED GUILTY OF BANDITRY.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
IN THE OPINION OF THIS COURT, YOU HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED SUFFICIENT PUNISHMENT. HOWEVER, THE LAW MUST BE OBSERVED.
I SENTENCE YOU TO A YEAR AT HARD LABOR. THAT SENTENCE IS HEREBY SUSPENDED, AND I PAROLE YOU FOR A YEAR~~
V VICTORY LOAN
11-9
~~IN THE CUSTODY OF MY SON! AND IF YOU CAN'T KEEP HIM ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW~~ OFF TO JAIL YOU GO! COURT ADJOURNED!
GOODBYE~ AND FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SUCH A DOPE!
YOU'RE FORGIVEN. GOOD LUCK, AND GOODBYE!
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
NOW, WE'RE GOING HOME TO SEE MAMA! THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING WITH ME! I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE~~
YOU MIGHT MEET ANOTHER PRETTY, WILD GIRL.
SHE WAS PRETTY, WASN'T SHE?
WHAT?
BUT NOT AS PRETTY AS YOU.
11-10
NEXT WEEK: "MERMAIDS OF MELO STRAIT."

Chapter Five: The Mermaids of Melo Straits

the PHANTOM®

BEGINNING "THE MERMAIDS OF MELO STRAITS."
I LIKE THE JUNGLE, BUT IT'LL BE GOOD TO GET BACK HOME.
S.S. BELLE OF

LATER~
WILL IT BE A ROUGH VOYAGE, CAPTAIN CRAG?
I THINK NOT~WE'RE TAKING THE SOUTHERN ROUTE.

THAT'LL TAKE US NEAR MELO STRAITS, EH?
NO! NO! NOT MELO STRAITS! ALL DIE!
11-12
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

MELO STRAITS~ FULL OF BLACK MAGIC!
NONSENSE! NATIVE SUPERSTITION!

BUT THIS IS TRUE ~ SHIPS HAVE GONE IN THERE~ AND COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!

SHIPS DISAPPEARED? BUT HOW?
NOT SURE~ IMAGINE THEY BROKE UP ON ROCKS~ NOTHING SUPER-NATURAL.
Copr 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

AHOY! OFF THE PORT BOW! LOOKS LIKE A RAFT! MAN ON IT.
11-13

WHAT CAPT. CRAG SEES ~~
LOWER A BOAT~~ LIVELY, MR. THOMAS, TAKE TWO MEN. PICK UP THE POOR DEVIL.
AYE, SIR.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
11-14
WHAT'S THIS?
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE MATE STRUCK THAT POOR MAN?
YES, MR. THOMAS, EXPLANATION PLEASE!
HE SEEMED DELIRIOUS, SIR. I WAS AFRAID HE'D GET VIOLENT~ UPSET THE BOAT.
CRAZY, EH? WHAT MADE YOU THINK SO?
HE TOLD ME HIS SHIP WAS WRECKED IN MELO STRAITS.
QUITE POSSIBLE~ NOT INSANE.
YES, SIR~ BUT HE SAID THEY'D BEEN LURED THERE~~ BY MERMAIDS!
11-15
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

TOO MUCH EXPOSURE.
MERMAIDS~ I WONDER~~
POOR FELLOW ~ HAVE TO TIE HIM DOWN~~MIGHT GET VIOLENT.
WHERE AM I?
TAKE IT EASY. YOU'LL BE O.K. TELL ME ABOUT THE MERMAIDS.
11-16
"WE HEARD BEAUTIFUL MUSIC COMING ACROSS THE WATER ~ WE DREW NEARER ~ THEN WE SAW 'EM ~ REAL, LIVE MERMAIDS!"
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU SAW MERMAIDS?
THINK IT? I KNOW IT!
"THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL~~ THE CAPTAIN AND THE WHOLE CREW COULDN'T WAIT TO GET CLOSER ~ TO GET A BETTER LOOK~~"
"SUDDENLY~~ BEFORE WE KNEW IT ~ THE SHIP CRACKED UP ON THE ROCKS~~"
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
"I CRAWLED ONTO THE RAFT ~ ~ NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS ALONE ~ IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN."
11-17
CONT

IT'S HORRIBLE. MAYBE ALL MY MATES ARE LOST. AND ALL THE DIAMONDS, TOO!
DIAMONDS?
Copr 1945 King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved
YES ~ WE HAD A CARGO OF DIAMONDS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. MUST'VE BEEN WORTH A FORTUNE!
11-19
"TATTOO" TED SAYS HIS SHIP WAS WRECKED ~~ CARRYING DIAMONDS.
BOSH! WE GOT NO SOS, DID WE? HE'S BALMY?
MUSIC ON THE WATER ~~ MERMAIDS ~ DIAMONDS! IT'S WEIRD.
THE SEA WILL DO STRANGE THINGS TO A MAN'S MIND.
LAND! GOOD OLD U.S.! AND AM I GLAD TO GET BACK!
CHECK!
Copr 1945 King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved
"TATTOO" TED IS CARRIED ASHORE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
EXPOSURE ~~ HE'S A SHIP ~ WRECK VICTIM.
LOOK, MAYBE A STORY!
I'LL CHECK WITH THE PURSER ~~ HE'S A GOOD SOURCE.
~~ AND HE SAID HE HEARD MUSIC OVER THE WATER AND SAW MERMAIDS! NO STORY IN THAT, UNLESS YOU'RE WRITING FICTION.
PURSER
11-20

MERMAIDS SIGHTED
SAILOR SAYS SIREN
SONG OF SLINKY SYLPHS
SHATTERED SHIP.
Dont rush, boys, but
there are mermaids
at Melo Straits!

OH, THEY'RE MAKING FUN OF "TATTOO" TED. THAT'S UNKIND.
STILL IT IS PRETTY FUNNY.

TWO OTHER READERS DON'T THINK THE "FUNNY" STORY IS VERY FUNNY.
LOOK!
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
V
VICTORY LOAN

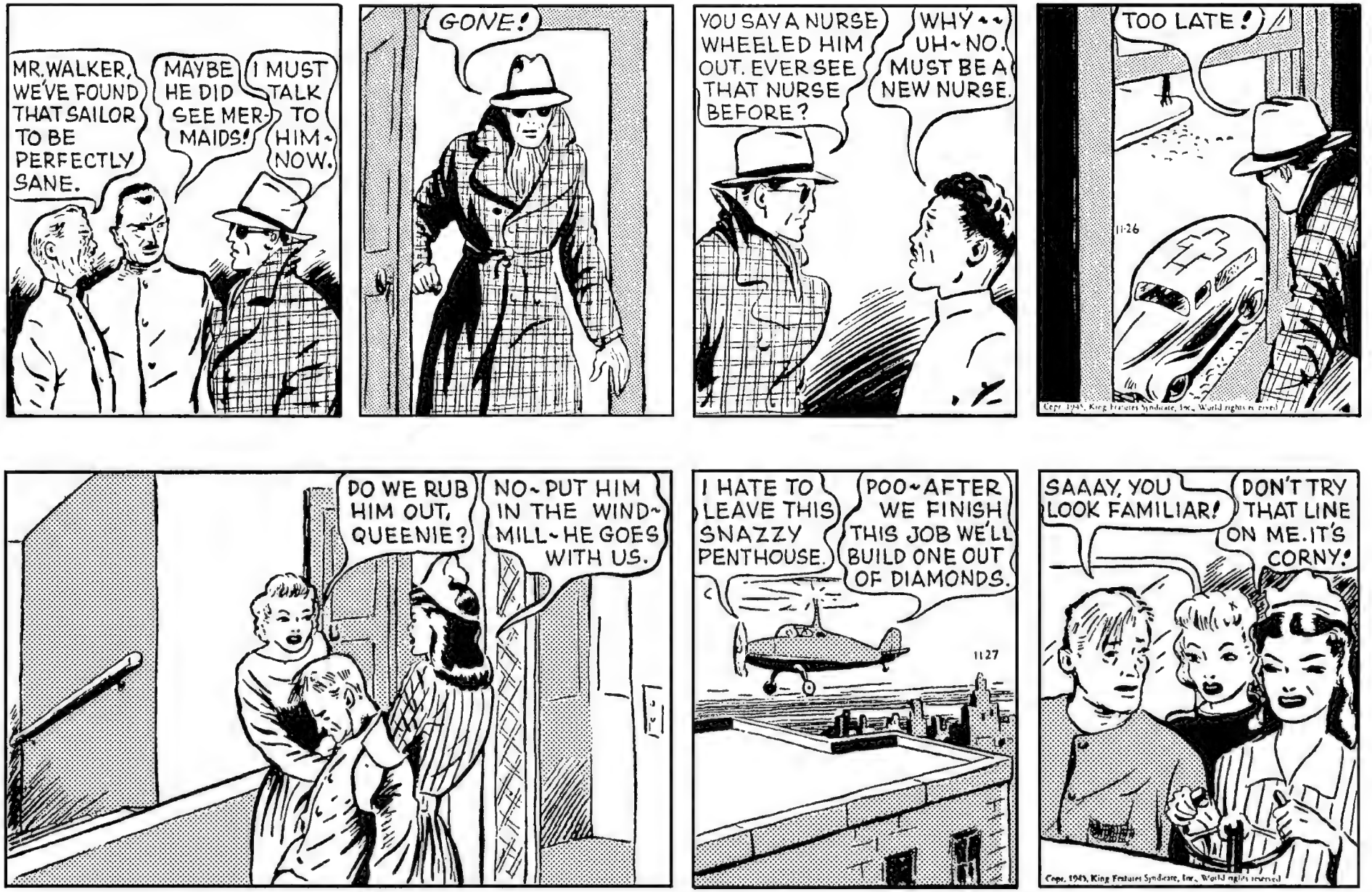
LUCKY THEY THINK "TATTOO" TED'S WACKY. NOBODY'LL BELIEVE HIS STORY, QUEENIE.
I'M NOT SO SURE. SUPPOSE SOMEBODY DOES BELIEVE IT?

HE'S IN A HOSPITAL. DOCTORS WILL EXAMINE HIM. THEY'LL FIND HIM SANE!
THAT'LL REALLY RUIN US!
V
VICTORY LOAN

WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE, PLATINUM! GET ME A NURSE'S COSTUME.

SHORTLY AFTERWARD.
LOTS OF NEW NURSES HERE ALL THE TIME. GETTING IN SHOULD BE A CINCH.
HOSPITAL NURSES' QUARTERS
11-22
WHAT'S QUEENIE UPTO?

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
FINE, BUT THEY WON'T LET ME OUT. THINK I'M GOOFY.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
GO TO SLEEP, SAILOR. YOU'LL BE O.K.
WE'LL COME SEE YOU AGAIN. GOODBYE.
V VICTORY LOAN
11-23
THIS IS THE CHAP'S ROOM.
VERY STRANGE CASE. HE THINKS HE SAW MERMAIDS.
V VICTORY LOAN
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
AH, NURSE, HOW'S YOUR PATIENT?
ER~FINE, DOCTOR~ I WAS JUST~ UH~TAKING HIS TEMPERATURE.
YOU MAY GO, NURSE. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW, IF WE NEED YOU.
IS "TATTOO"TED REALLY HAYWIRE?
HM.
HMM.
HMMM~
11-24
CONT'D.


MR. WALKER, WE'VE FOUND THAT SAILOR TO BE PERFECTLY SANE.
MAYBE HE DID SEE MER-MAIDS!
I MUST TALK TO HIM~ NOW.
GONE!
YOU SAY A NURSE WHEELED HIM OUT. EVER SEE THAT NURSE BEFORE?
WHY~~ UH~NO. MUST BE A NEW NURSE.
TOO LATE!
11-26
DO WE RUB HIM OUT, QUEENIE?
NO~PUT HIM IN THE WIND~MILL~HE GOES WITH US.
I HATE TO LEAVE THIS SNAZZY PENTHOUSE.
POO~AFTER WE FINISH THIS JOB WE'LL BUILD ONE OUT OF DIAMONDS.
11-27
SAAAY, YOU LOOK FAMILIAR!
DON'T TRY THAT LINE ON ME. IT'S CORNY!

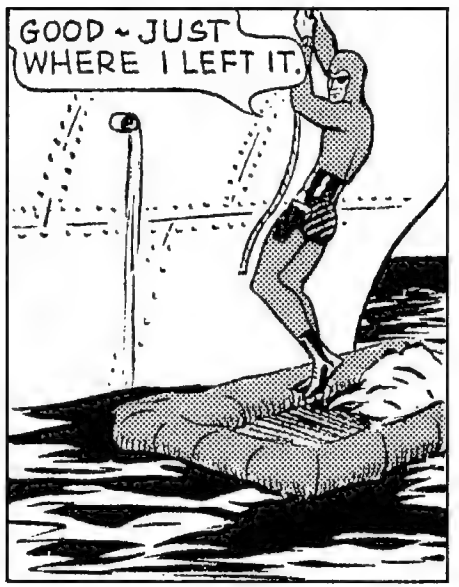
THAT SAILOR DID SEE MERMAIDS! NOW HE'S MISSING. THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE TO LOOK FOR A CLUE- MELO STRAITS.
FINE. WHEN DO WE START?
WE DON'T START- MIGHT BE DANGEROUS. I'M GOING ALONE, DIANA.
GOODBYE, DARLING.
DOES HE THINK I'D LET HIM BE ALONE WITH A WHOLE BEVY OF GORGEOUS MERMAIDS?
11-28
TOMORROW: OFF TO MELO STRAITS.
WELL, MR. WALKER! NICE HAVING YOU BACK WITH US.
WE'RE NEAR MELO STRAITS AREN'T WE, CAPTAIN?
NOT NEAR ENOUGH TO BE DANGEROUS. HO, HO!
LISTEN!
STRANGE MUSIC!
COULD IT BE ~~??
AHOY! MERMAIDS TO STARBOARD!-- WHAT AM I SAYING?
11-29

SCUTTLE ME FOR A SCOW, IS THE WHOLE WALLOWING CREW GOING DAFT?

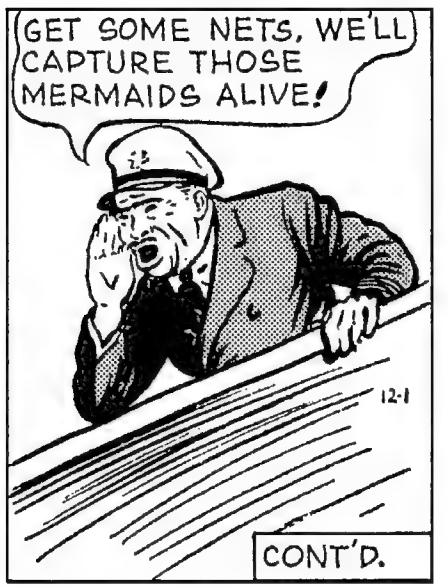
BEEN SAILING THE SEAS FOR 40 YEARS, MAN AN' BOY, AN' I AIN'T NEVER SEED A MERMAID!

--TILL NOW!
11-30

IT'S A TRICK, CAPTAIN. DON'T TAKE THE SHIP NEARER.
I WANT A CLOSER LOOK!

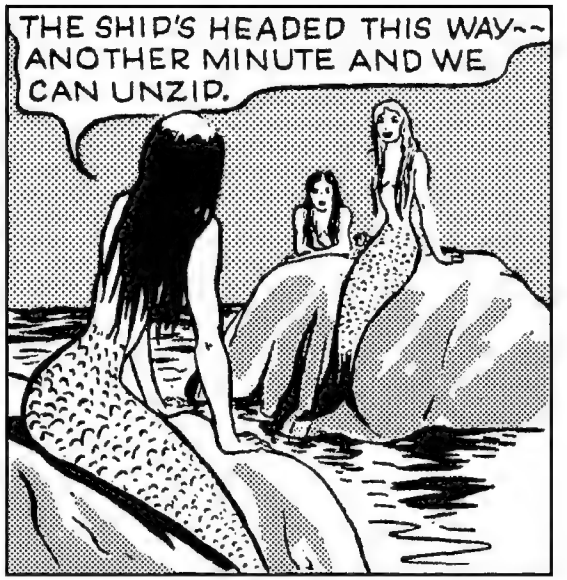

GOOD ~ JUST WHERE I LEFT IT.

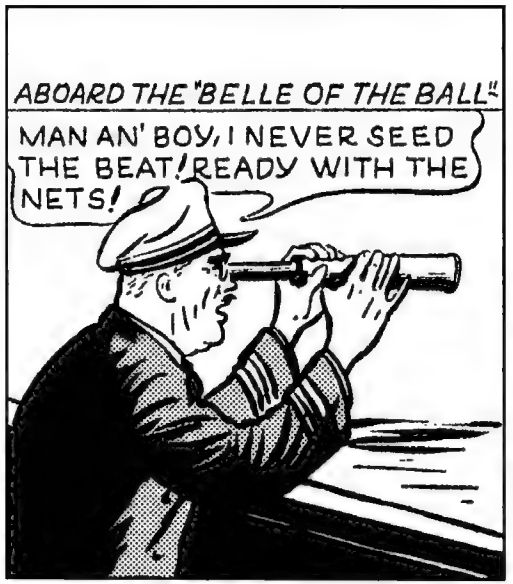
IF I COME IN FROM THE SIDE ~ AND THE MERMAIDS KEEP WATCHING THE SHIP ~ THEY WON'T SEE ME.

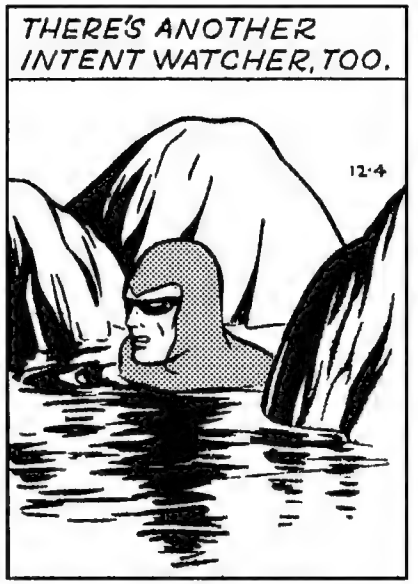

GET SOME NETS, WE'LL CAPTURE THOSE MERMAIDS ALIVE!
12-1
CONT'D.

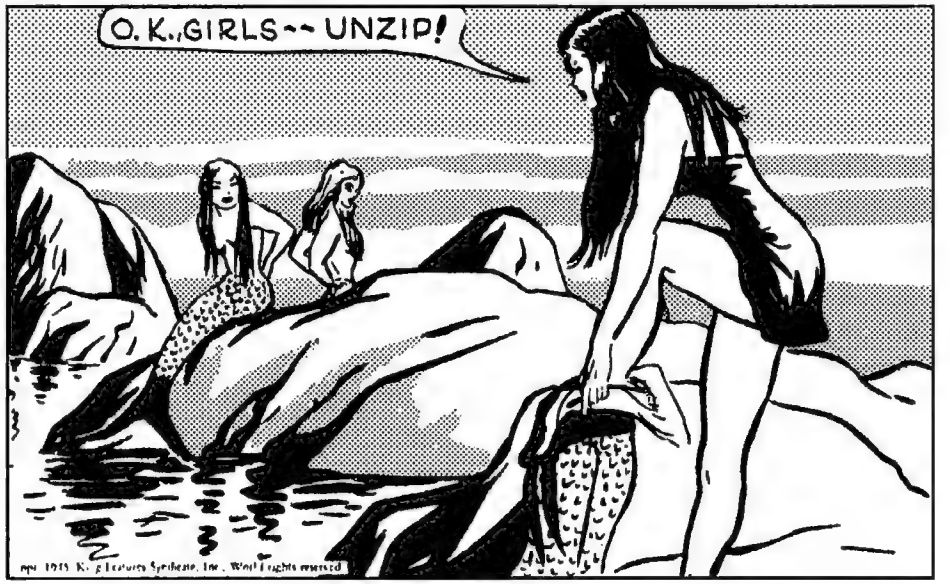
THE PHANTOM DOESN'T KNOW HE HAS A STOWAWAY.
I'LL HIDE THE RAFT HERE AND SWIM IN CLOSER.
12-3

I'LL BE DARNED--


THE SHIP'S HEADED THIS WAY-- ANOTHER MINUTE AND WE CAN UNZIP.


ABOARD THE "BELLE OF THE BALL"
MAN AN' BOY, I NEVER SEED THE BEAT! READY WITH THE NETS!


THERE'S ANOTHER INTENT WATCHER, TOO.
12-4


O.K., GIRLS-- UNZIP!

HURRY, GIRLS!
V
VICTORY LOAN

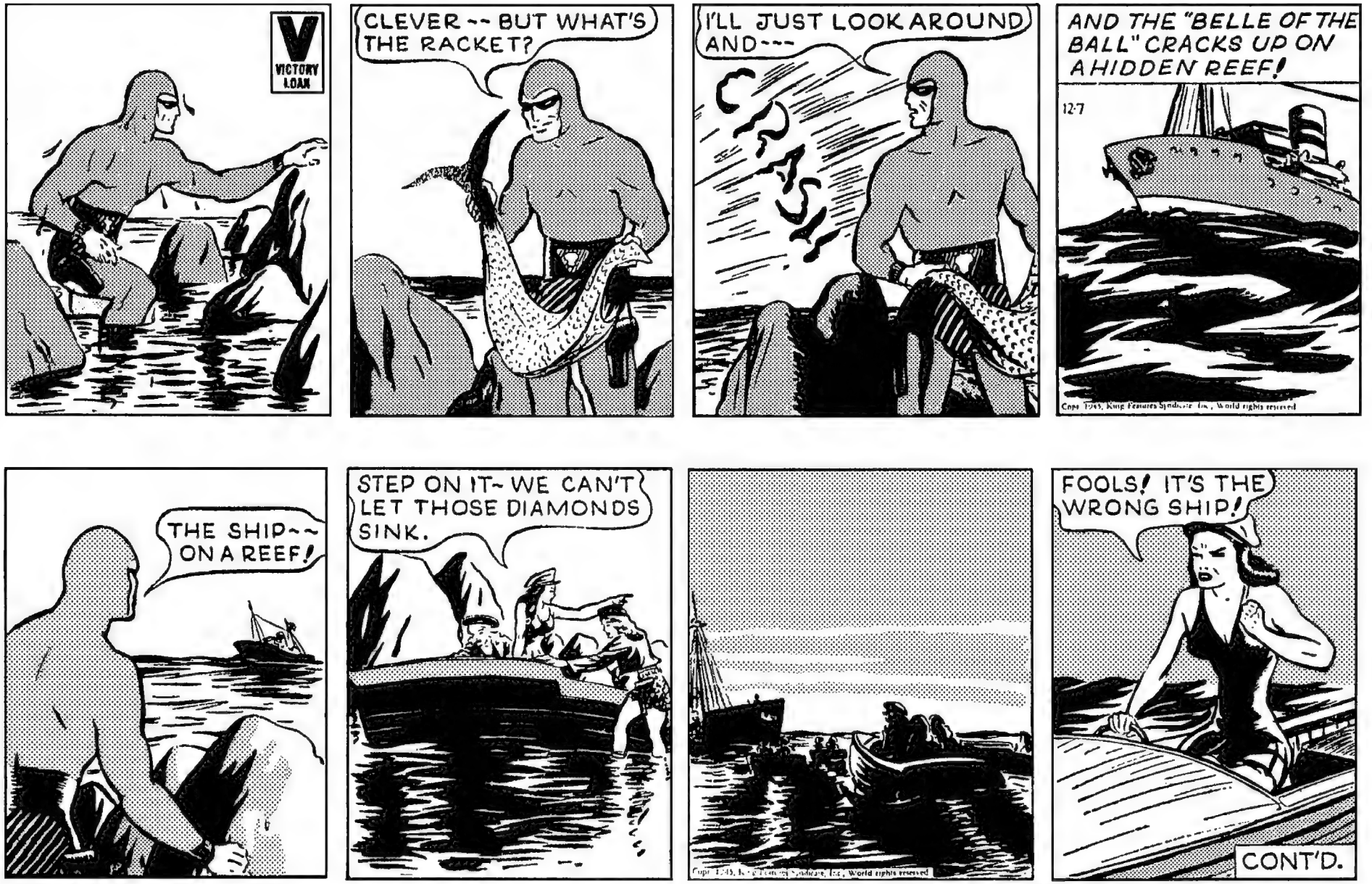
I'M STUCK.

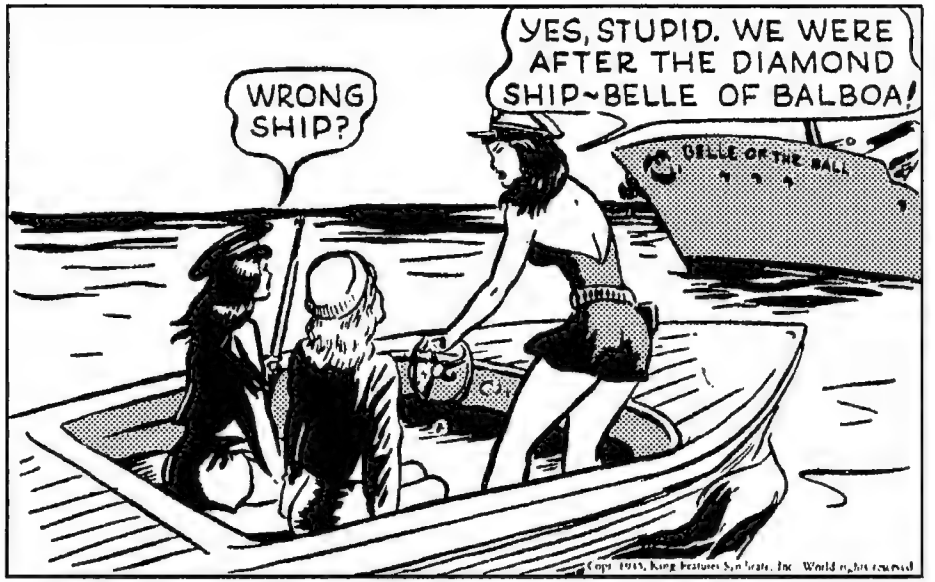
AND THE MERMAIDS TAKE OFF!
READY, DIVE!
12-5
Copr. 1945 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

OF ALL THE FRAUDS! NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF BATHING BEAUTIES! BACK ON OUR COURSE!

THE STOWAWAY WATCHES, TOO.
WHAT CAN THEY BE UP TO?
12-6
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

SOMETHING'S WRONG, SIR! WE MISSED THE CHANNEL! WE'RE SCRAPING BOTTOM!


V
VICTORY LOAN
CLEVER -- BUT WHAT'S THE RACKET?
I'LL JUST LOOK AROUND AND---
AND THE "BELLE OF THE BALL" CRACKS UP ON A HIDDEN REEF!
12-7
THE SHIP-- ON A REEF!
STEP ON IT- WE CAN'T LET THOSE DIAMONDS SINK.
FOOLS! IT'S THE WRONG SHIP!
CONT'D.


WRONG SHIP?
YES, STUPID. WE WERE AFTER THE DIAMOND SHIP~BELLE OF BALBOA!
BELLE OF THE BALL

WHAT'LL WE DO?
TAKE HER, ANYWAY~ SEE WHAT THEY'VE GOT.

A MOMENT LATER~~
IF YOU'RE CAPTAIN OF THIS TUB, TELL YOUR MEN TO OBEY MY ORDERS~~ THEN NOBODY'LL GET HURT.
1210

THIS IS AN OUTRAGE, BLAST IT.
PIPE DOWN, POPS.

FEMALE PIRATES! AND THEY'VE CAPTURED THE WHOLE CREW!

BUT THEY WON'T CATCH HIM~~OR ME.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, SISTER.
1211
TOMORROW~PRISON VALLEY.

HIDING, THE PHANTOM WATCHES, AS THE CAPTIVES ARE HERDED UPON THE ISLAND.
BUT HE DOESN'T SEE DIANA, TAKEN ALONG A DIFFERENT PATH.
I CAN'T HELP 'EM TILL I LEARN THE LAYOUT~~ SO I'LL STAY IN HIDING.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
PRISON VALLEY, POPS. YOU'D BETTER LIKE IT. YOU'RE GONNA BE THERE A LONG TIME.
12-12
AT MELO STRAITS, THE CAPTIVES SEE A STRANGE SIGHT.
WHY~ ISN'T THIS~
RIGHT, POPS! THIS IS THE FAMOUS FORT DIABOLO, A PIRATE STRONGHOLD 300 YEARS AGO.
12-13
SLOWLY, THE DOOR TO PRISON VALLEY RISES. WHAT FATE IS IN STORE FOR THE LUCKLESS CAPTIVES ON THE OTHER SIDE?
AND HERE'S THE DOOR TO PRISON VALLEY~ OPEN IT.

NO, NO! I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KID WAITING FOR ME. I WON'T GO IN!
THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT, CHUMP! NEXT TIME, I SHOOT TO KILL!
12-14
SLOWLY, THE MEN FILE THROUGH THE GATE TO PRISON VALLEY.
THEY'RE ALL SAFE INSIDE. ALL BUT ONE.
ALL BUT ONE? WHY ISN'T THAT ONE INSIDE, TOO?
WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO THIS ONE FIRST. IT'S A DAME.
12-15
WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON THAT SHIP, SISTER?
I-I WAS A STOWAWAY.
LAMMIN' FROM THE LAW, EH? I COULD USE A BABE LIKE YOU IN MY RACKET! INTERESTED?

IF YOU REFUSE--YOU DISAPPEAR!
ER~~ BEFORE I ACCEPT THE JOB~~
YOU'RE CUTE, SISTER. YOU WANTA BE WISED UP TO THE RACKET, EH? NO HARM IN THAT. COME WITH ME.
FIRST, WE LURE THE SUCKERS IN TO SEE THE MERMAIDS! WITH~~
MUSIC! A HIDDEN AMPLI-FIER!
12-17
Copr 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
OUR "SIREN SONG" IS HEARD FOR MILES AT SEA. THEN THE SUCKERS COME IN TO FIND OUT WHAT'S COOKIN' AND~~ BOOM!
BUT WHEN A SHIP'S WRECKED, DOESN'T IT SEND AN S.O.S?
IT TRIES~BUT OUR TRANS-MITTER JAMS IT RIGHT OFF THE AIR.
IS THERE NO CLEAR CHANNEL THROUGH MELO STRAITS?
THERE IS~~ BUT WE REARRANGED THE BUOYS. WE DON'T MISS A BET.
MELO STRAITS
IT'S A SWEET SETUP~~ AND FOOL-PROOF.
ARE THERE ANY~MEN~ IN YOUR GANG?
MEN? NO! I HATE MEN!
12-18
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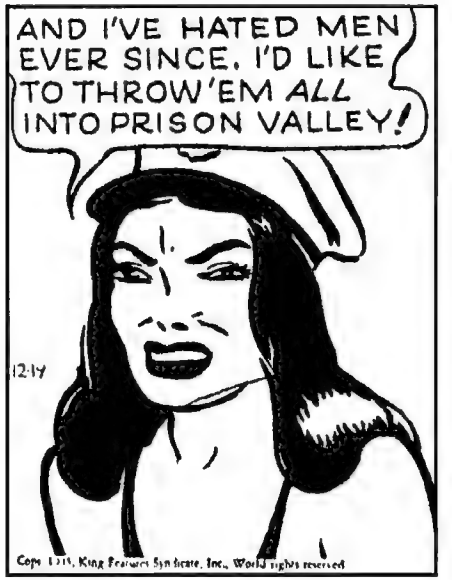
YOU HATE MEN? WHY?
BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL RATS!

"I WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH A MAN ONCE"--
OH, DARLING! WHAT A LOVELY SURPRISE!
???

--"BUT HE DID ME WRONG."
KEEP YOUR MITTS OFF THAT. IT'S NOT FOR YOU. YOU AND I ARE THROUGH!


AND I'VE HATED MEN EVER SINCE. I'D LIKE TO THROW 'EM ALL INTO PRISON VALLEY!
1219
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QUEENIE, LEADER OF THE "MERMAIDS."
I'M A TOUGH BABY, BUT I LIKE NICE THINGS.

I MAY BE A PIRATE, BUT CAPT. KIDD NEVER LOOKED THIS GOOD, EH?

SEE, I GOT DIAMONDS. AN' I DIDN'T HAVE TO BEG ANY MAN FOR 'EM!
1220
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AND YOU CAN HAVE CLASSY SPARKLERS LIKE THIS, TOO, SISTER-- WHEN YOU JOIN UP WITH ME!

WELL WADDA YOU SAY? ARE YOU WITH US?
I'M ON A SPOT I'D HOPED HE MIGHT FIND ME BEFORE THIS!

IT'S NO USE~~ I C-CAN'T BE A PIRATE.

THEN IT'S PRISON VALLEY FOR YOU, SISTER. AND YOU'LL BE SORRY!

SLOWLY THE GREAT GATE CLOSES~~
12-21
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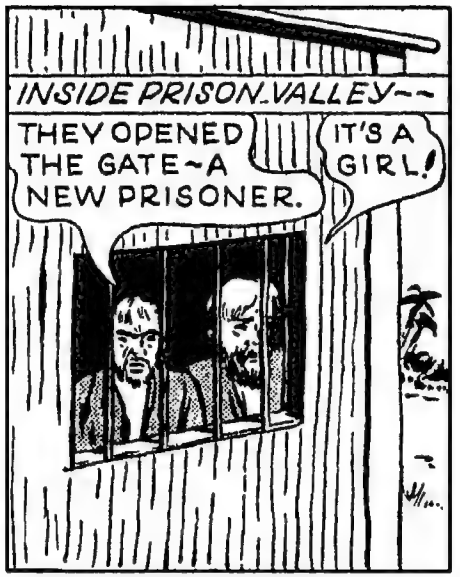
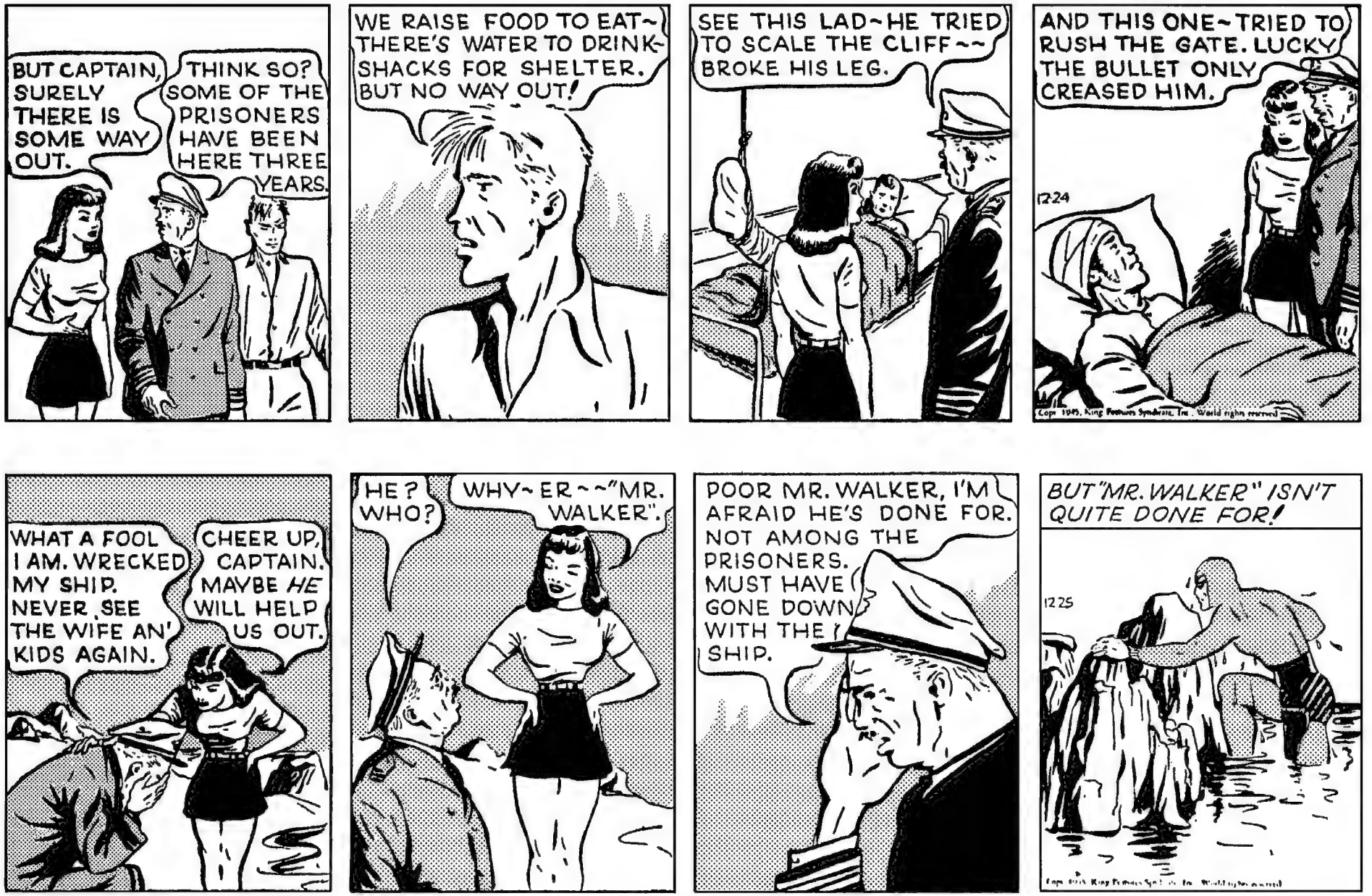
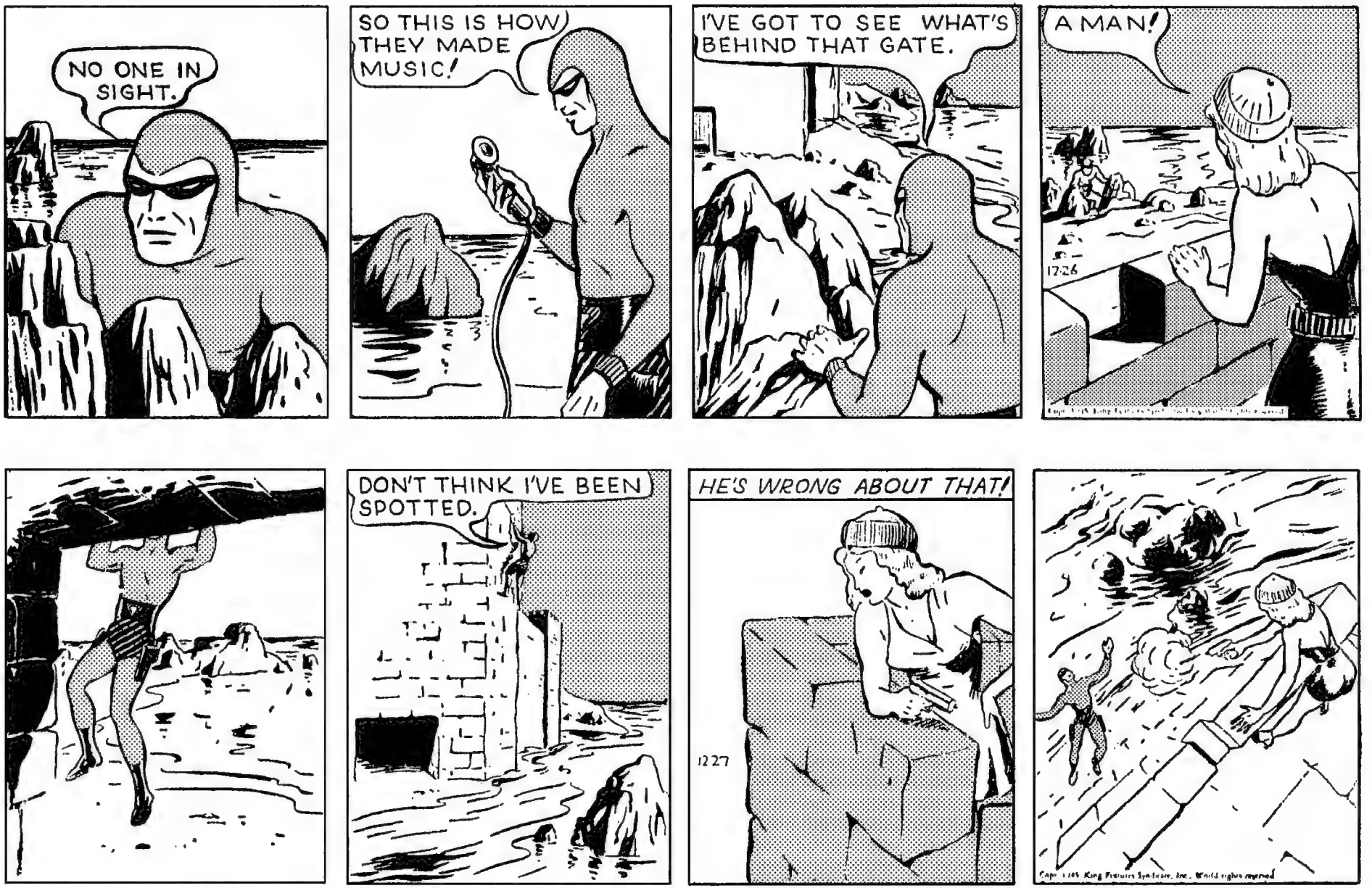

INSIDE PRISON VALLEY~~
THEY OPENED THE GATE~A NEW PRISONER.
IT'S A GIRL!

MISS DIANA~ WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
I WAS A STOWAWAY~ ON YOUR SHIP~THEN THEY CAUGHT ME.

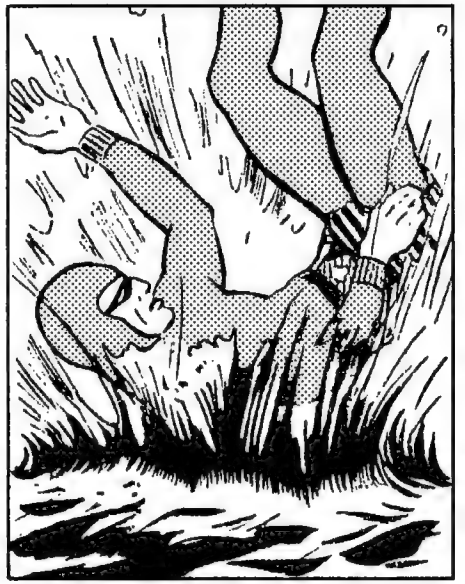
PRISON VALLEY! THIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD.
WE'RE WALLED UP IN THIS PLACE~ FOREVER!
12-22

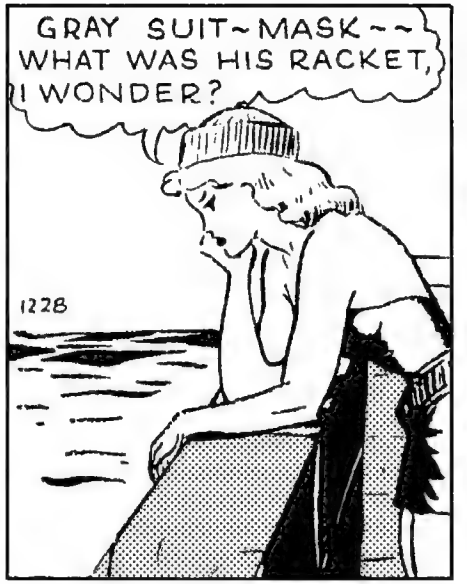
TATTOO TED!
YOU THOUGHT I WAS BALMY, EH! NOW YOU KNOW!


BUT CAPTAIN, SURELY THERE IS SOME WAY OUT.
THINK SO? SOME OF THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN HERE THREE YEARS.
WE RAISE FOOD TO EAT~ THERE'S WATER TO DRINK~ SHACKS FOR SHELTER. BUT NO WAY OUT!
SEE THIS LAD~HE TRIED TO SCALE THE CLIFF~~ BROKE HIS LEG.
AND THIS ONE~TRIED TO RUSH THE GATE. LUCKY THE BULLET ONLY CREASED HIM.
12-24
WHAT A FOOL I AM. WRECKED MY SHIP. NEVER SEE THE WIFE AN' KIDS AGAIN.
CHEER UP, CAPTAIN. MAYBE HE WILL HELP US OUT.
HE? WHO?
WHY~ER~~"MR. WALKER".
POOR MR. WALKER, I'M AFRAID HE'S DONE FOR. NOT AMONG THE PRISONERS. MUST HAVE GONE DOWN WITH THE SHIP.
BUT "MR. WALKER" ISN'T QUITE DONE FOR!
12-25


NO ONE IN SIGHT.
SO THIS IS HOW THEY MADE MUSIC!
I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THAT GATE.
A MAN!
12-26
DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN SPOTTED.
HE'S WRONG ABOUT THAT!
12-27

WHAT A STRANGE~~!! WHO IS HE?




GRAY SUIT~MASK~~ WHAT WAS HIS RACKET, I WONDER?
1228

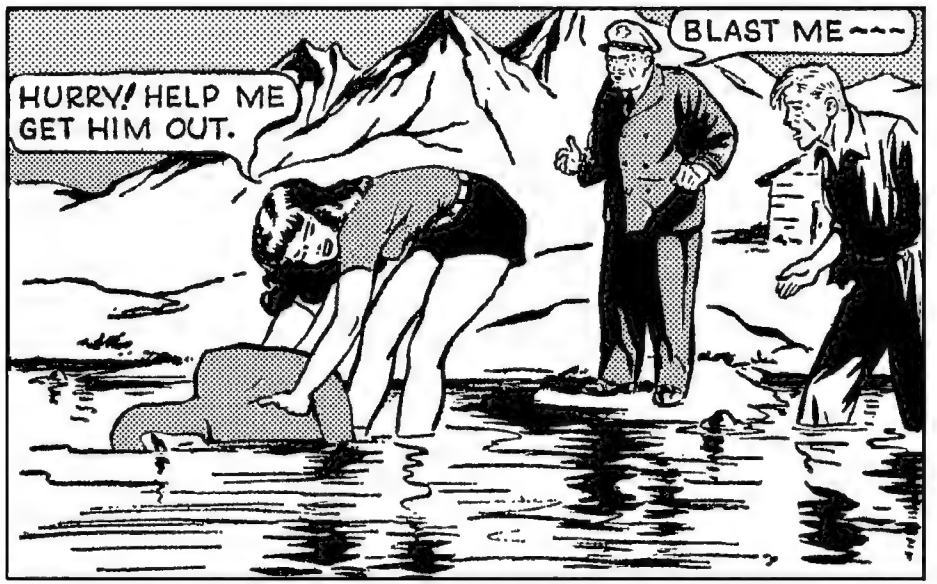
BUT PERHAPS SHE'LL NEVER LEARN THE ANSWER AS A WHIRLPOOL DRAGS THE LIMP BODY DOWN~DOWN~DOWN~~

A STRANGE CURRENT SUCKS AT THE PHANTOM'S BODY.

I'M THIRSTY.

DON'T DRINK THAT~~ IT'S SALT WATER.

LOOK! A BODY~~
1229


HURRY! HELP ME GET HIM OUT.
BLAST ME~~~

IS HE~~ IS HE ~?
DEAD?
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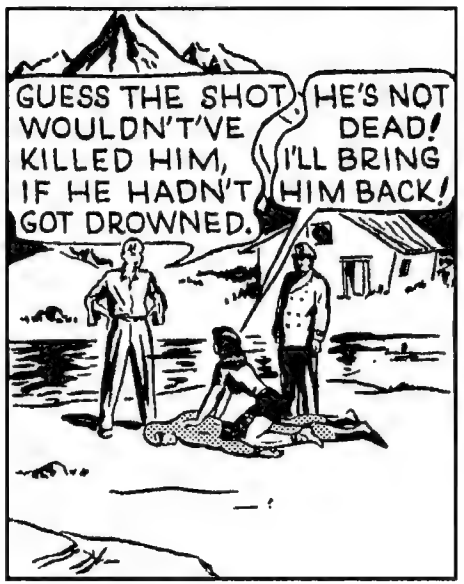
PEARS TO ME LIKE HE'S DEAD *TWO* WAYS ~~ SHOT AND DROWNED.
12-31


GUESS THE SHOT WOULDN'T'VE KILLED HIM, IF HE HADN'T GOT DROWNED.
HE'S NOT DEAD! I'LL BRING HIM BACK!

MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP.
NO.

HE'S BREATHING!
1-1

I MUST BE DEAD~~ I SEE AN ANGEL.

SOON THE PHANTOM'S RUGGED STRENGTH ASSERTS ITSELF~~
HOW'D I GET HERE?
YOU WERE WASHED IN.

THERE'S A SALT WATER STREAM. IT SWEEPS UNDER THE CLIFF FROM THE SEA. IT SUCKED YOU INTO PRISON VALLEY.

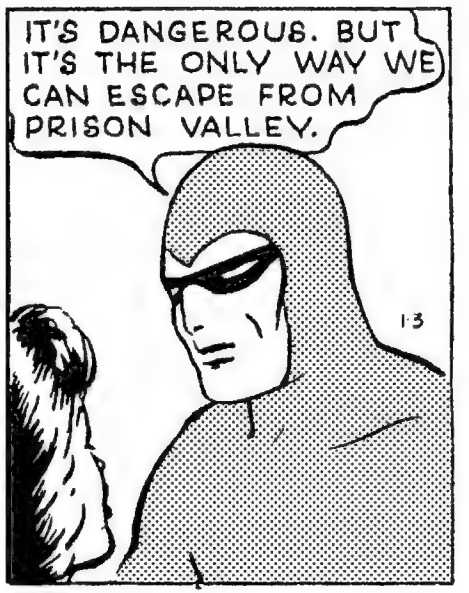
SO THE LADY PIRATES OFFERED YOU A JOB, EH?
YES~ OF COURSE, I REFUSED.

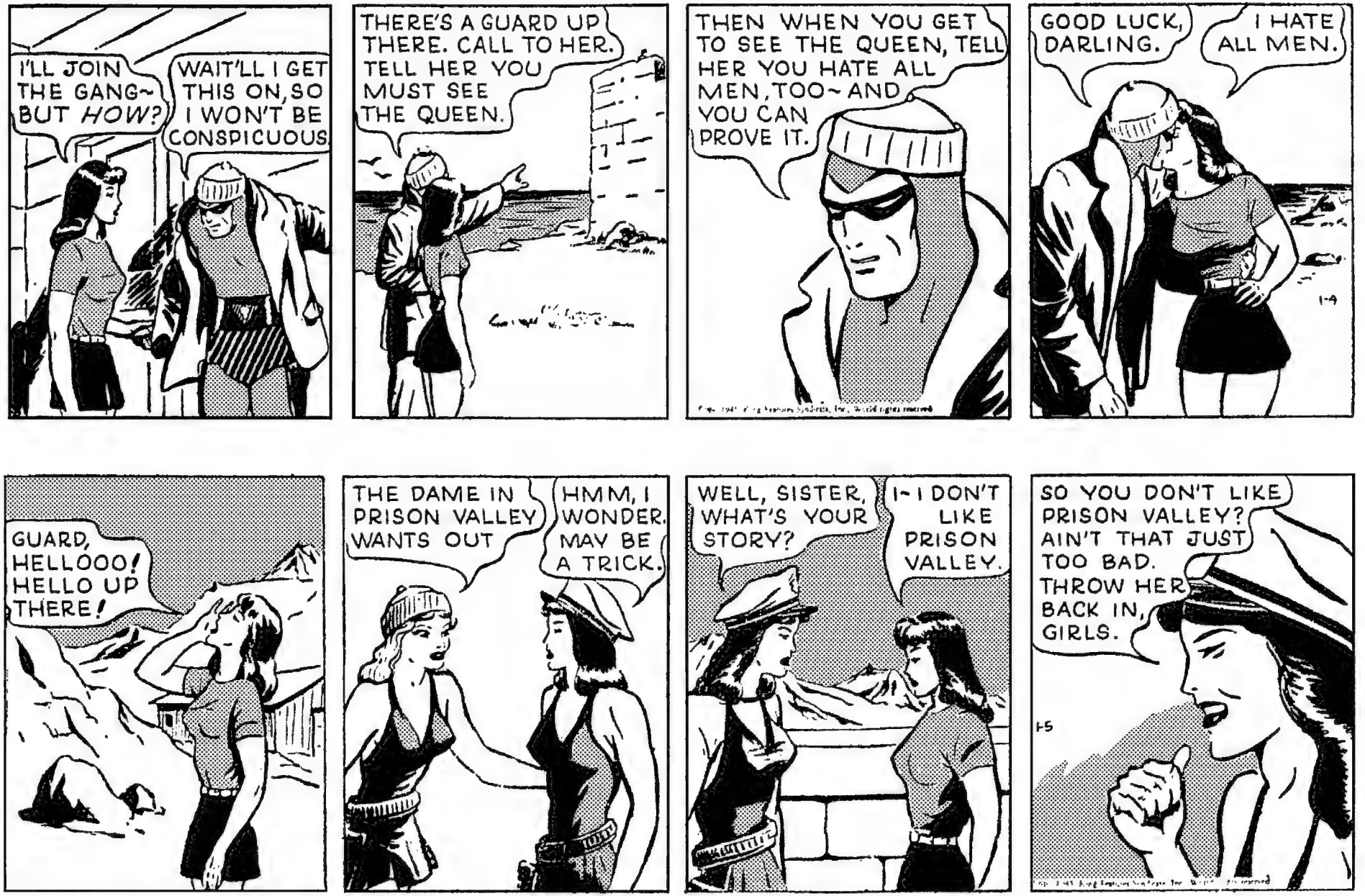
WHAT'S THIS? HAS THE BULLET WOUND AFFECTED HIS MIND?
YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR MIND~ YOU MUST BECOME A FEMALE PIRATE.
1-2

ME BE A PIRATE? YOU'RE JOKING.
NO, I'M SERIOUS.

DARLING, LIE DOWN~~ REST. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A DAY OR SO.

I'M OK. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. I WANT YOU TO JOIN THESE FEMALE PIRATES.


IT'S DANGEROUS. BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN ESCAPE FROM PRISON VALLEY.
1-3


I'LL JOIN THE GANG~ BUT *HOW?*
WAIT'LL I GET THIS ON, SO I WON'T BE CONSPICUOUS
THERE'S A GUARD UP THERE. CALL TO HER. TELL HER YOU MUST SEE THE QUEEN.
THEN WHEN YOU GET TO SEE THE QUEEN, TELL HER YOU HATE ALL MEN, TOO~ AND YOU CAN PROVE IT.
GOOD LUCK, DARLING.
I HATE ALL MEN.
GUARD, HELLOOO! HELLO UP THERE!
THE DAME IN PRISON VALLEY WANTS OUT
HMM, I WONDER. MAY BE A TRICK.
WELL, SISTER, WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
I~ I DON'T LIKE PRISON VALLEY.
SO YOU DON'T LIKE PRISON VALLEY? AIN'T THAT JUST TOO BAD. THROW HER BACK IN, GIRLS.

WAIT--I WANT TO JOIN YOUR GANG. I HATE MEN, TOO!
EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU'VE CHANGED SO SUDDENLY ?

SEE THAT MAN DOWN THERE? LEND ME YOUR GUN. I'LL PROVE WHAT I SAY!

IT'S THE PHANTOM!
17

THE STRANGER!
HE'S BEEN SHOT!

DRAG ME INTO THE SHACK.

ARE YOU HURT BADLY ?
NOT HURT AT ALL.

NOT HURT ? BUT THE SHOT ?
I SUPPLIED THE PISTOL AND THE-BLANK!
18

SOME SHOOTING-- BUT WHY ? WHY KILL HIM ?
HE--ER TRIED TO KISS ME.
KILL A MAN BECAUSE HE TRIED TO KISS YOU ? YOU ARE A COLD-BLOODED WITCH !
WE CAN USE YOU. COME ON.
BUT--DON'T SHOOT ANY MORE MEN EXCEPT ON MY ORDERS.
YES, MA'AM.
YOU SHOULD MAKE AN O.K. MERMAID···TRY THIS FOR SIZE.
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM QUEENIE SOMEHOW··· TO HELP HIM.
FINE. NOW SLIP INTO THIS.
BUT IN THIS THING··· I CAN'T EVEN WALK!

I FEEL AS IF I WERE GOING TO BE IN A SACK RACE.
NO! NO! NO!
NOT LIKE THAT! A MERMAID DOESN'T SIT LIKE THAT!
SHOW HER HOW.
LIKE THIS.
I SEE.. LIKE THIS?
THAT'S FINE. SEE IF THIS FITS.
AT THAT MOMENT...

THE WINDMILL'S BACK.
SPOTTED THE DIAMOND SHIP. IT'S LATE. WON'T BE ALONG FOR HALF AN HOUR.
1-14
OK. TAKE 'EM OFF. WON'T NEED MERMAIDS FOR HALF AN HOUR
SHORTLY AFTERWARD
AH-- JUST WHAT I NEED.
WELL ?
WHAT KIND OF DOUBLE-CROSS IS THIS ?
QUEENIE MOVES LIKE LIGHTNING.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CHOKE YOU NOW-- OR HANG YOU LATER.
URG-
1-15

W-WAIT ! I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A LARIAT--AND PRACTICE LASSOING---
LIKE-LIKE THIS---
SAY, THAT LASSO STUFF COULD COME IN HANDY.
SHAKE, SISTER. SORRY I DOUBTED YOU.
WHEN WE HAVE TIME, MAYBE YOU CAN TEACH ME.
WHEW--!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET UP HERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN.
I'LL LOWER THE OTHER END TO HIM AND--WHA---
CALLING ALL MERMAIDS
MERMAIDS REPORT TO BEACH AT-ONCE
DIAMOND SHIP APPROACHES

I'VE GOT TO BE THERE--OR QUEENIE WILL SMELL A RAT.
MERMAIDS REPORT AT ONCE
NO TIME TO SIGNAL HIM-- I JUST PRAY HE SEES IT.
WELL, SISTER, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE--TO LURE A SHIP TO ITS DOOM!
1-18
HERE, PLATINUM--TEST THE AMPLIFIER.
SAILOR--AWK-K FAR UPON- URK- THE SEA-AWK
THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
MY VOICE-- I'D'S HOARSE. GUESS I'B GOT A CODE.
OH, FINE! SAY, SISTER, CAN YOU SING?
ME?
1-19
CONT'D.

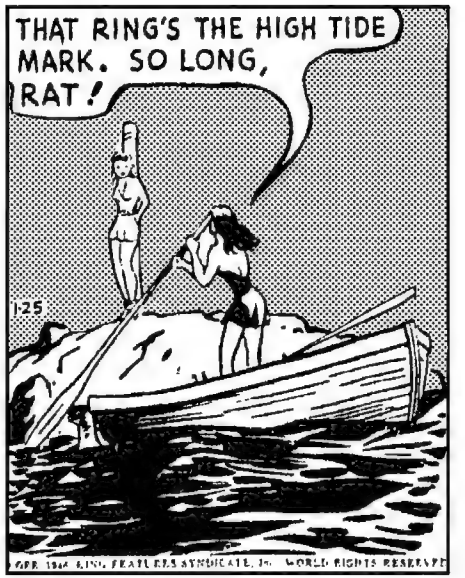
I CAN TRY-- BUT I DON'T KNOW THE SONG.
OK, PLATINUM-- TEACH HER THE WORDS.
SAILOR ♪ FAR ACROSS THE SEA COME AND GIVE ♪ YOUR LOVE TO ME, IF YOU---
IT'S NO USE-- I CAN'T REMEMBER THE WORDS.
ALL RIGHT THEN-- SING SOMETHING YOU DO KNOW.
I'LL BE GLAD ♪ WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, ♪ YOU RASCAL, YOU!
1-21
GLAD WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, ♪ RASCAL YOU-- ZOOT-DE-ROO!
NO! NO! NO! GOT ANY OTHER SONGS?
WELL--ER--HOW ABOUT "LOVER COME BACK TO ME?"
SWELL-- ONLY MAKE IT "SAILOR COME BACK TO ME." WIGS ON, EVERYBODY!
HOW AWFUL--TO THINK THAT I'VE GOT TO HELP WRECK A SHIP!
1-22

WHAT STRANGE MUSIC!
MERMAIDS! OFF THE PORT BOW!
MERMAIDS IN MELO STRAITS--- LET'S HAVE A CLOSER LOOK.
SAILOR! COME BACK TO ME!
HERE THEY COME. ANOTHER MOMENT AND THEY'LL BREAK UP ON THE REEF.
NO, NO! GO BACK SHIP! IT'S A TRICK! YOU'LL BE WRECKED!
1-23
YOU--!
TRAITOR!
SHE'S RUINED EVERY-THING--WE'VE GOTTA LAM OUTA HERE.
PLATINUM, GO GET THE PLANES READY. AND SEAL THE PRISON VALLEY GATE---
WHILE I TAKE CARE OF MISS SNITCHER, HERE.
1-24

THIS IS MORE TROUBLE THAN SHOOTING--BUT AT LEAST SHE'LL SUFFER.

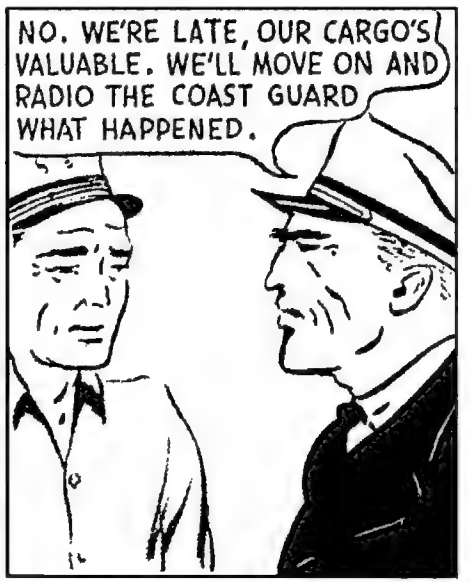
WHAT HAP--- OH!
SO, YOU'VE COME TO? THAT'S EVEN BETTER.

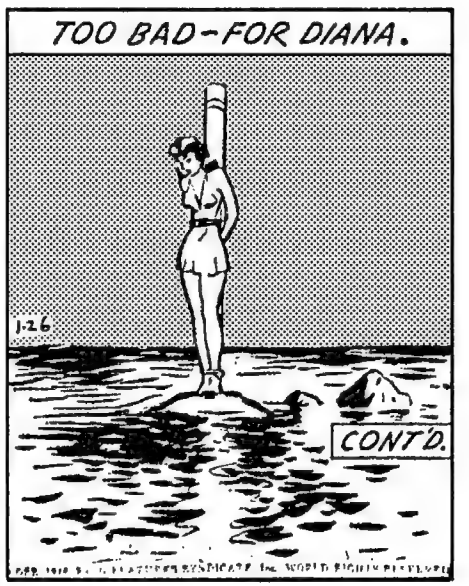
YOU CAN'T SEE IT-- BUT JUST ABOVE YOUR HEAD THERE'S A RING AROUND THIS POST.


THAT RING'S THE HIGH TIDE MARK. SO LONG, RAT!
1-25

GOOD THING WE REVERSED MOTORS. EVIDENTLY IT WAS A TRICK. THE MERMAIDS ARE ONLY GIRLS IN BATHING SUITS.

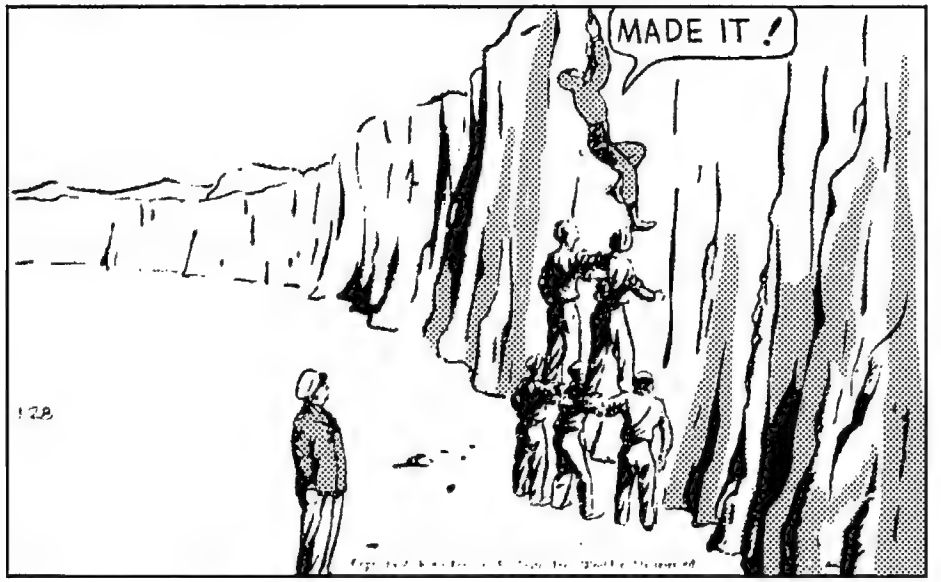
SHALL I TAKE A SMALL BOAT AND INVESTIGATE, SIR?
HMMM.


NO. WE'RE LATE, OUR CARGO'S VALUABLE. WE'LL MOVE ON AND RADIO THE COAST GUARD WHAT HAPPENED.


TOO BAD-FOR DIANA.
1-26
CONT'D.

IT'S HERE-- A ROPE!
IT IS ? FUNNY, DIANA DIDN'T SIGNAL.

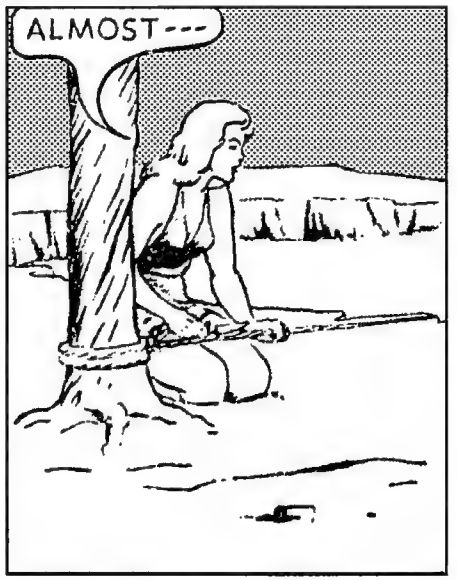
BLAST IT-- IT'S TOO SHORT!
MAYBE NOT. ROUND UP SOME MEN.


MADE IT!
1-28

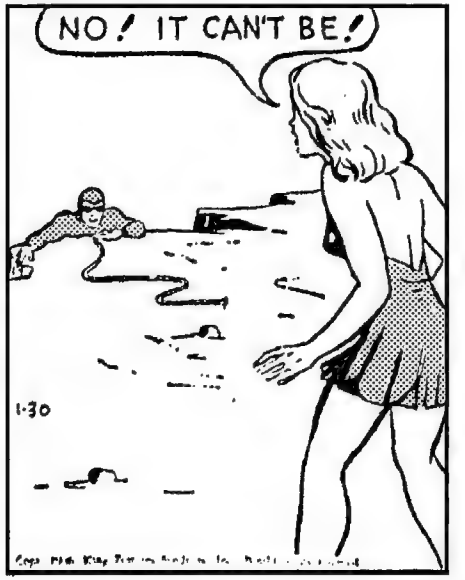
RED IS ON GUARD IN THE TOWER ABOVE PRISON VALLEY
FUNNY ABOUT THAT GUY I SHOT. HE SORT OF HAUNTS ME.

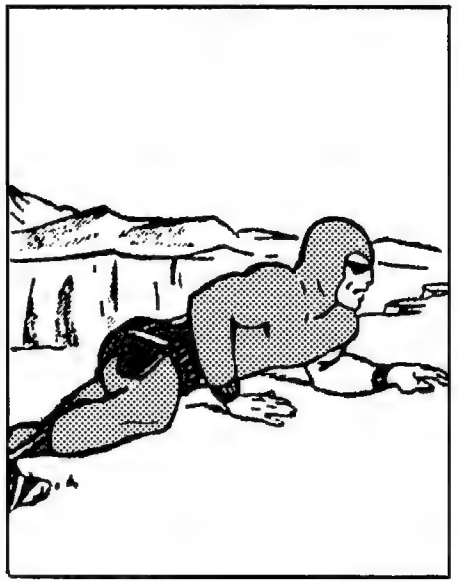
WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE ? A ROPE! DANGLING INTO PRISON VALLEY!

CAN'T SEE WHO'S CLIMBING-- I'LL JUST CUT THIS ROPE!
1-29


ALMOST---

THERE!

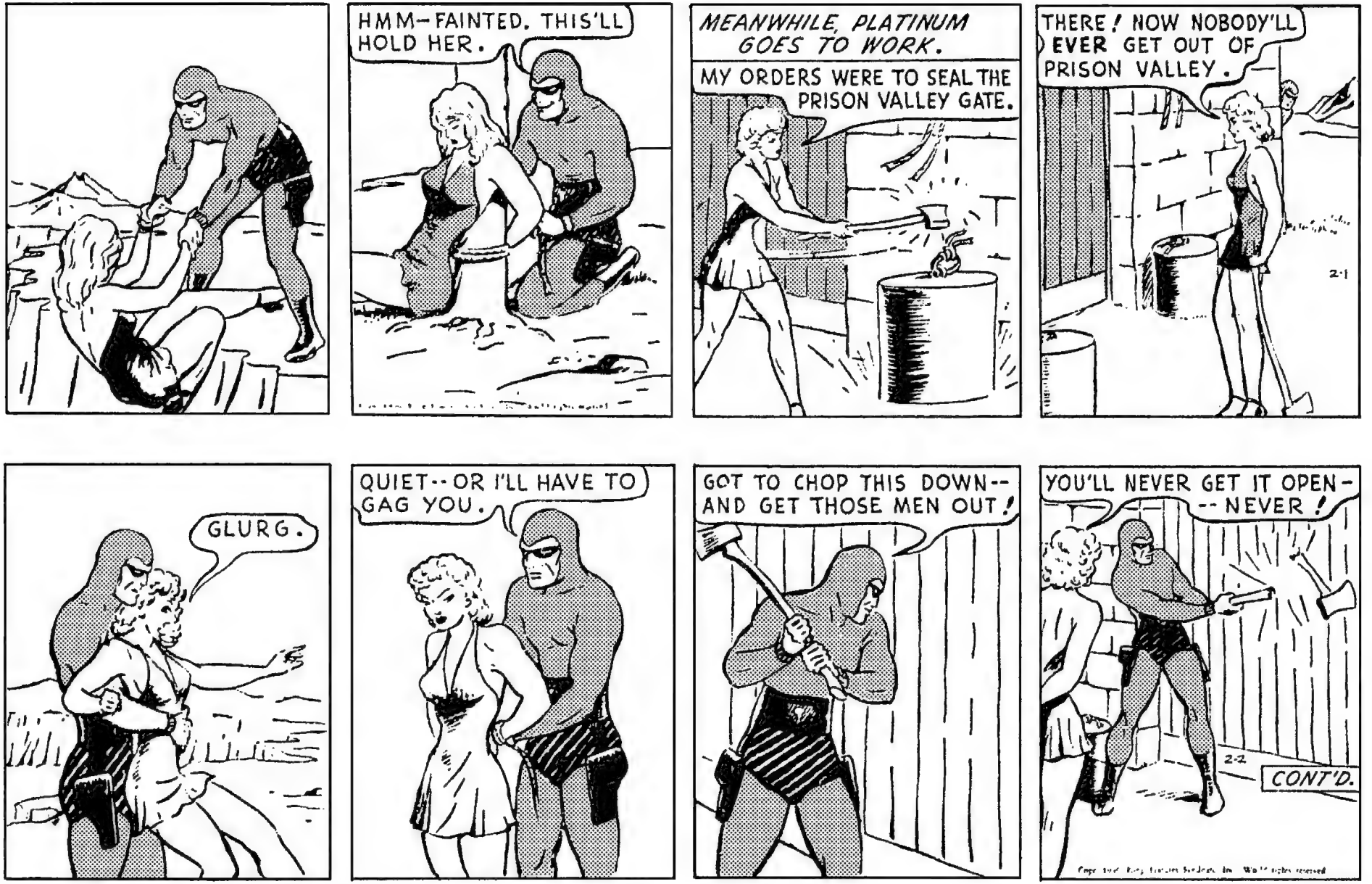

NO! IT CAN'T BE!
1-30

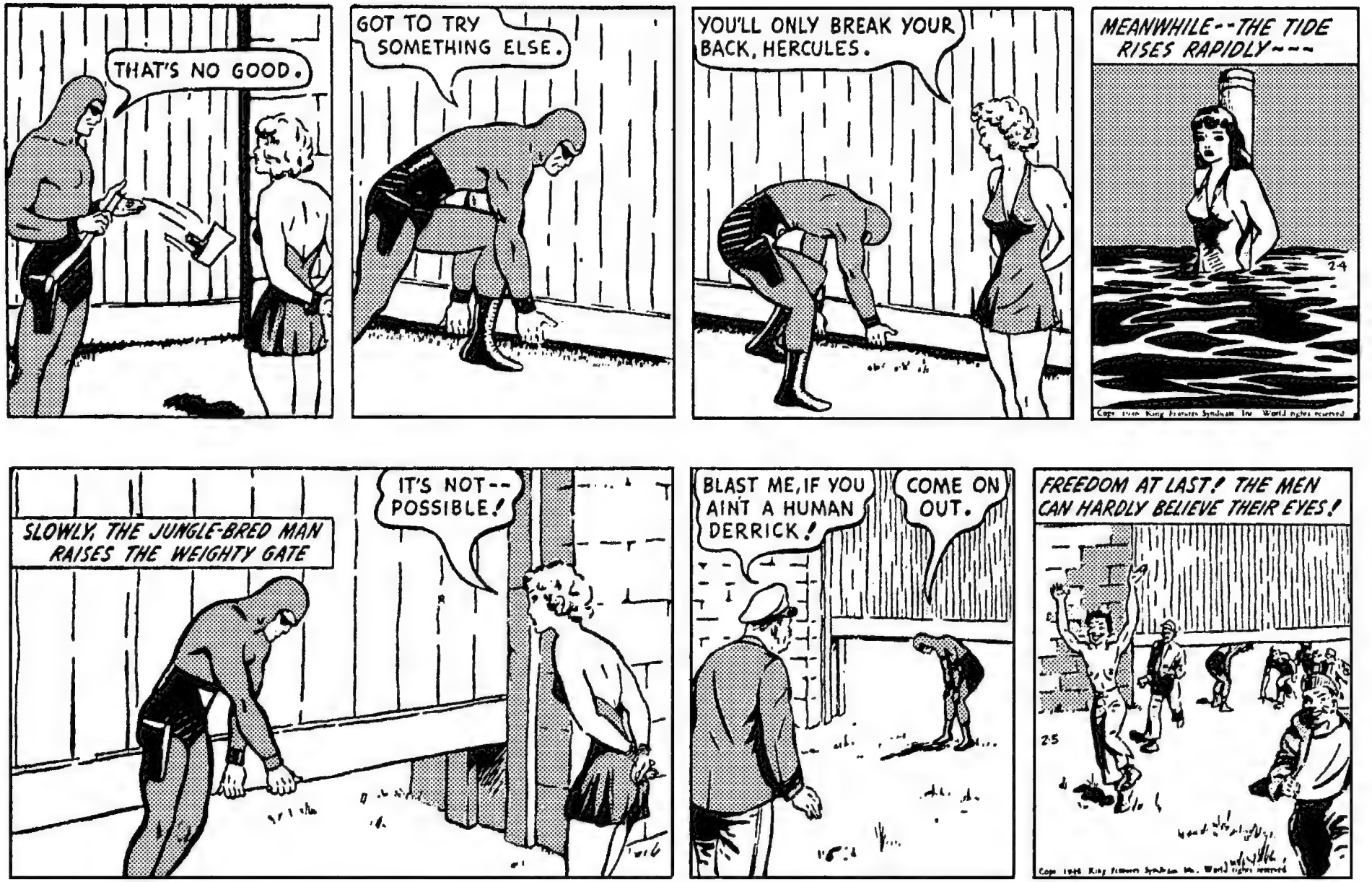


NO, STAY BACK--
YOU'RE DEAD!

EEEEEEE!

WHOA, RED!
1-31


HMM—FAINTED. THIS'LL HOLD HER.
MEANWHILE, PLATINUM GOES TO WORK.
MY ORDERS WERE TO SEAL THE PRISON VALLEY GATE.
THERE! NOW NOBODY'LL EVER GET OUT OF PRISON VALLEY.
2-1
GLURG.
QUIET--OR I'LL HAVE TO GAG YOU.
GOT TO CHOP THIS DOWN--AND GET THOSE MEN OUT!
YOU'LL NEVER GET IT OPEN--NEVER!
2-2
CONT'D.


THAT'S NO GOOD.
GOT TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU'LL ONLY BREAK YOUR BACK, HERCULES.
MEANWHILE--THE TIDE RISES RAPIDLY---
24
SLOWLY, THE JUNGLE-BRED MAN RAISES THE WEIGHTY GATE
IT'S NOT-- POSSIBLE!
BLAST ME, IF YOU AIN'T A HUMAN DERRICK!
COME ON OUT.
FREEDOM AT LAST! THE MEN CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR EYES!
25

WITH THE LAST MAN OUT, PRISON VALLEY'S SEALED AGAIN.
CRASH
WHAT A DULL JOB-- GUARDING THE ARMORY. NOBODY'S AROUND HERE TO STEAL OUR GUNS.
??
HERE--BUT BE CAREFUL HOW YOU USE THEM.
2-6
THE DIAMOND SHIP'S GOING AWAY.
THAT SHIP TRIED TO RADIO THE COAST GUARD, BUT I JAMMED IT. NO MESSAGE GOT TO THE COAST GUARD.
THEN THERE'S NOT AS MUCH HURRY AS THERE WAS. WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME--- PICK UP OUR LOOT--- MAKE A CLEAN GETAWAY.
IN FACT, THERE'S NO HURRY AT ALL!
2-7

FIRST THING IS TO MOVE MY OWN PRIVATE COLLECTION OF DIAMONDS FROM THE TREASURE ROOM TO THE PLANE!

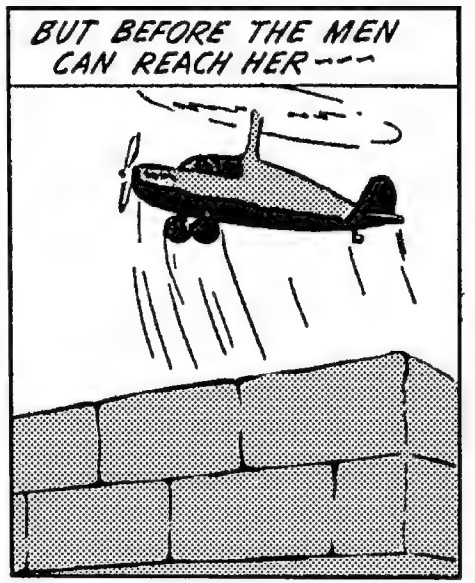
AT THE DOOR OF THE TREASURE ROOM...
??

MY DIAMONDS... ARE THEY...?

EMPTY!! OH!
2-8

MASKED MAN OVERPOWERED ME! FREED THE PRISONERS—
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE--FAST!

THERE SHE IS! THE LEADER! TAKE HER ALIVE!


BUT BEFORE THE MEN CAN REACH HER---

CONGRATULATIONS TO ME! I MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY!
2-9
CONT'D.

BETTER TAKE THIS CRATE DOWN AGAIN
WHAT??

I SAID, LAND THIS-- I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME TO DIANA.
DIANA? WHO'S THAT?

THE RISING TIDE IS UNRELENTING.

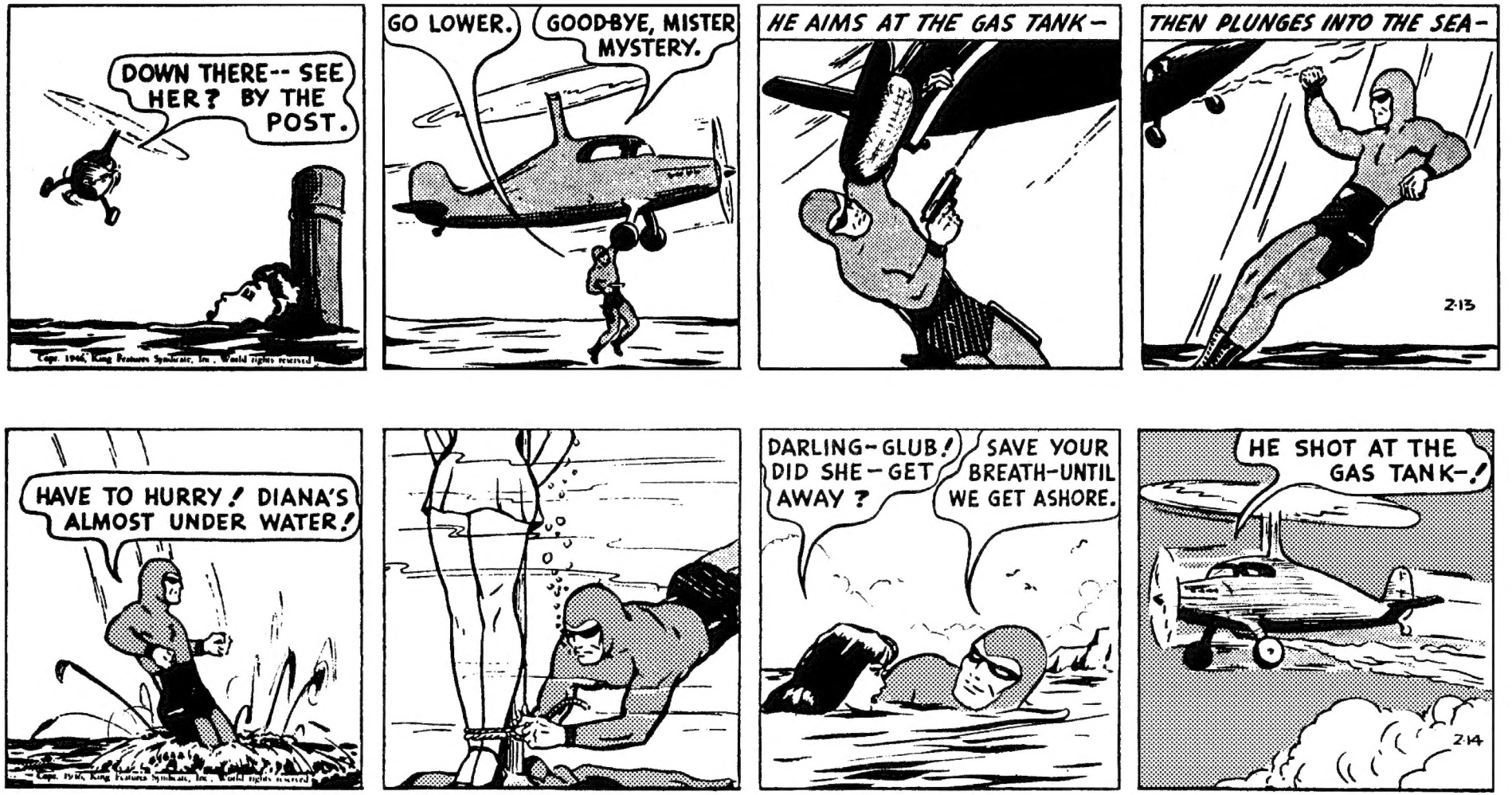
2-11

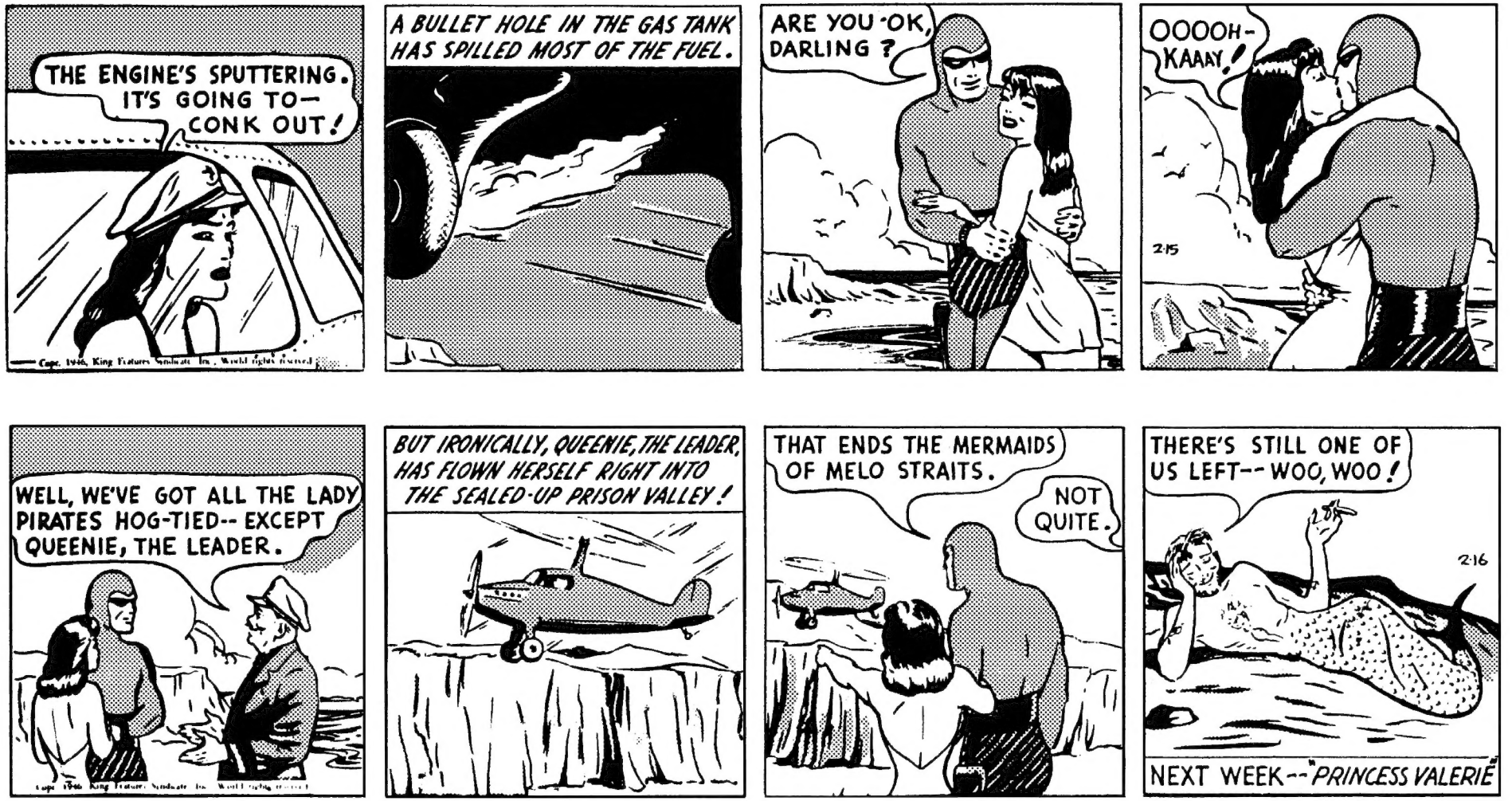
WHERE'S DIANA, THE NEW GIRL WHO JOINED YOUR GANG?
OH--YOU MEAN THE TRAITOR!

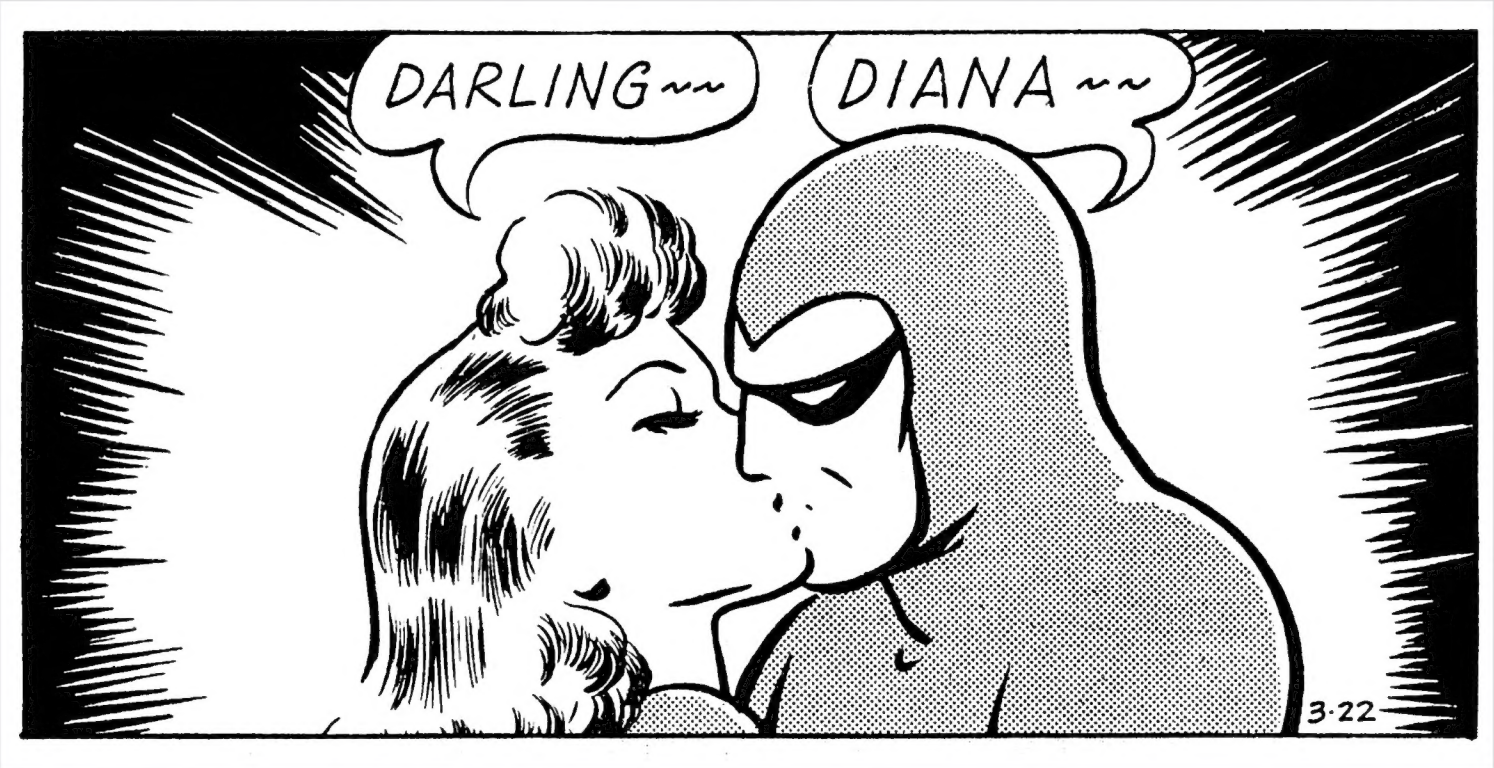
SHE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW-- I HOPE.

IF YOU'VE HARMED HER, I'LL--
WAIT. MAYBE YOU CAN SAVE HER. I'LL MAKE A BARGAIN.

SHE'S IN THE WATER. IF I FLY LOW ENOUGH FOR YOU TO DIVE AFTER HER, WILL YOU LET ME GO?
IT'S A DEAL.
2-12


DOWN THERE-- SEE HER? BY THE POST.
GO LOWER.
GOOD-BYE, MISTER MYSTERY.
HE AIMS AT THE GAS TANK—
THEN PLUNGES INTO THE SEA—
2-13
HAVE TO HURRY! DIANA'S ALMOST UNDER WATER!
DARLING-GLUB! DID SHE-GET AWAY?
SAVE YOUR BREATH-UNTIL WE GET ASHORE.
HE SHOT AT THE GAS TANK-!
2-14


THE ENGINE'S SPUTTERING. IT'S GOING TO— CONK OUT!
A BULLET HOLE IN THE GAS TANK HAS SPILLED MOST OF THE FUEL.
ARE YOU OK, DARLING ?
OOOOH- KAAAY!
2-15
WELL, WE'VE GOT ALL THE LADY PIRATES HOG-TIED-- EXCEPT QUEENIE, THE LEADER.
BUT IRONICALLY, QUEENIE, THE LEADER, HAS FLOWN HERSELF RIGHT INTO THE SEALED-UP PRISON VALLEY!
THAT ENDS THE MERMAIDS OF MELO STRAITS.
NOT QUITE.
THERE'S STILL ONE OF US LEFT-- WOO, WOO!
2-16
NEXT WEEK--"PRINCESS VALERIE"



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